

All parties agree to formula for Rhodesia ceasefire

A ceasefire in Rhodesia was agreed yesterday by all the parties involved in the Lancaster House talks. It is hoped all the details can be worked out in the next few days and the war brought to a speedy end. Then, a British governor

will fly to Salisbury to assume full power. If final agreement is not reached on ceasefire details by the weekend the Cabinet intends to send out an acting or deputy governor to "keep up the momentum".

Acting governor flies to Salisbury at weekend

By David Spangler
Diplomatic Correspondent

A ceasefire in Rhodesia was agreed by all the parties to the constitutional conference yesterday, based on the plan put forward by Lord Carrington, the conference chairman, a week ago.

The implementation of the ceasefire will be discussed immediately, in the hope that all the details can be worked out in the next two or three days, and the war brought to an end without delay.

The Cabinet is planning to send an acting or deputy Governor to Salisbury by about next Sunday even if no final agreement has been reached on ceasefire details (The Times, December 5). The mission is understood to include Sir Antony Duff, deputy Permanent Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, and Sir John Paul, a former colonial governor and at present Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man. While the Government would prefer a "first class" agreement by

the weekend, in which case the Governor would almost certainly be Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and member of the Cabinet, it is not prepared to wait.

The ceasefire agreement, warmly welcomed by all three delegations, came after intensive contacts behind the scenes, at which a formula was devised to reassure the Patriotic Front guerrilla leaders, on the main issues which up till then had blocked the conference.

Much of the credit for the breakthrough goes to Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, who it is understood played a key part in drafting the declaration which broke the deadlock.

At a short plenary session in the afternoon, Mr Mugabe said the Patriotic Front had been concerned about the disposition of their forces after a ceasefire, on the grounding of Rhodesian aircraft, and the presence of South African forces. These were issues that needed to be clarified. Lord Carrington responded by

saying that he could assure the Patriotic Front that "there will be no external involvement in Rhodesia under the British Governor. The position has been made clear to all the governments concerned including South Africa".

This mention of South Africa by name is seen by the Patriotic Front as an important admission by Britain, according to their spokesmen. It appears to be the clearest point they have gained.

Secondly, Lord Carrington said the Rhodesian Air Force would be monitored effectively. Britain had in mind a monitoring force of about 1,200 men, adequate to the overall task.

The Patriotic Front made it clear later that when it comes to discussing the details of the implementation, they hoped to show that a larger force will be needed.

Mr Mugabe then delivered the Patriotic Front's acceptance of the British plan. He said: "In the light of your statement of 28 November and after discussions with the British delegation on a number of

details, including the details of the location and number of places for the disposition of the forces under the British proposals. . . . We now feel the British proposals for a ceasefire provide the basis for an agreement and for moving on quickly to settle the details of the implementation."

Lord Carrington expressed his pleasure and thanked Mr Mugabe. While the details have still to be settled, and they may prove very difficult, it is clear that the British plan has been accepted as it stands.

The principal issues to be negotiated now are the identification of the assembly areas for the Patriotic Front forces and the date of the ceasefire. The Patriotic Front has accepted the British proposal of 15 assembly areas but is insisting that the Rhodesian forces should have the same number.

Judging from the Patriotic Front's comments last night, all this may be hard going. Nevertheless all three delegations are anxious to conclude the conference.

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Mrs Thatcher voices optimism on pay as miners accept offer

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

After months of preaching the need for economic sense in pay bargaining, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, reported yesterday that there were "really encouraging signs" that workers were sorting out their pay problems in a way that would bring economic benefits to the whole nation.

"They are not on my doorstep for beer and sandwiches," she told an audience of MPs and journalists at a Parliamentary Press Gallery luncheon, harking back to the practice of Sir Harold Wilson when he was at Downing Street frequently entertaining trade union leaders and intervening in pay disputes.

"No," she added. "When they have difficult industrial relations problems they are sorting them out themselves. That is what they ought to be doing. We saw how the people at Charing Cross hospital belatedly sorted out the problems themselves. At British Leyland, they have started to sort it out themselves. That is what democracy is all about."

It was not for central government to take these decisions. It was for people to take responsibility for the decisions. Recognizing they were part of a wider society. Economic sense was engendering a willingness to restrain pay claims.

She was particularly cheered by the miners' ballot, which accepted the National Coal Board's 20 per cent pay offer.

"We had fixed a cash limit of £600m a year for coal. We hope to get a lot of money out of oil but, with the coal, we are putting a lot of money in. That was a small proportion of the industry's income, and after that we asked the two sides to negotiate."

The result was one of "the signs that our philosophy and beliefs strike a chord in the hearts of most people, who understand the basic economic facts," she said.

At British Leyland, she knew that she must not interfere because Sir Michael Edwards was the chairman "and you back your chairman or you say, all right, we will change him."

Mrs Thatcher emphasized again the importance of monetary discipline and stopping the growth of public spending in the fight to control inflation.

As a result of the Government's determination not to "print money" there were now high interest rates. "If we had not let the rates go up we should not have got the money in to finance even the limited expenditure we have undertaken," she said.

Asked about Government spending in 1980-81, she pointed out that the Government's figures last included the payment of £1,000m to Europe—which will be substantially reduced. "I have no doubt," in fact, she said, "just a little bit of leeway" ahead.

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London the battlefield in US-Iranian bank war

By Ronald Pullen

The legal wrangles surrounding Iran's blocked bank deposits in London grows more complicated. Chemical Bank, one of the big United States banks covered by President Carter's order on November 14 that all official Iranian assets in the United States banking system should be frozen, announced yesterday that it had obtained an injunction restraining Iran and its central bank, Bank Markazi, from removing any assets from the jurisdiction of the English courts.

This is the latest legal manoeuvre in response to the Iranian central bank's efforts to unblock its assets held in the London branches of several American banks.

A Chemical spokesman in New York said the injunction could be lifted if either the Iranian government or the Bank Markazi posted \$51 in securities or acceptable bonds.

Last week, Bank Markazi issued writs against five United States banks for the return of deposits amounting to more than \$3,000m (about £1,370m). Earlier this week Citibank, one of the most hawkish of the American banks, issued a counter-writ against the central bank in an attempt to clarify whether United States banks could extend the freezing order to their overseas branches.

The international banking community is uncertain whether United States banks have the legal right to freeze deposits held in London, and the English courts have now become the focus of attention in the economic war.

Chemical Bank is now claiming payment of \$50m plus interest from Iran for participation in a \$500m loan to the Shah's government granted in December, 1977. This loan has been the catalyst in the whole story.

Earlier this month Chase Manhattan Bank, which had arranged the loan on behalf of a number of other United States and European banks, pulled the participants to see whether they should ask Iran to speed up payment because it had missed a half-yearly interest payment. Iran claimed that the interest had been paid, but had been caught up in the United States banking system as a result of President Carter's action.

In effect, the major United States banks have called Iran to be in default of its international obligations.

This action has opened up a major rift between American banks and others which do not want to be drawn into the conflict with Iran.

International bankers are particularly concerned about the effect this will have on the banking system, especially as the major United States banks appear to be protecting their own interests at the expense of the rest of the international banking community.

The British authorities were keen yesterday to play down the significance of Chemical Bank's move, since they have always considered the affair should be fought through the courts. Chemical's injunction relates to all assets owned by the state of Iran or Bank Markazi, including bank deposits, bonds, and other securities. Bank Markazi will probably seek to have it reversed.

Mr Lynch resigns as Prime Minister

From Christopher Thomas
Dublin

The Irish Republic's ruling Fianna Fail party will tomorrow elect a successor to Mr Jack Lynch, the Prime Minister, who yesterday announced his resignation after 13 years as party leader.

The repercussions on Anglo-Irish relations could be enormous. The man, at present, tipped as the new leader is Mr Charles Haughey, Minister for Health, who has staged a remarkable comeback after being dismissed by Mr Lynch from his Cabinet post in 1970 over an arms scandal which was never proven.

Mr Haughey is a deeply committed republican, with political aspirations that are very little from the original concepts of Fianna Fail as laid down by Eamonn de Valera, the party's founder.

Mr Lynch, aged 52, has mounting opposition from the right wing of his party because of his apparent shift away from purist republican thought. His resignation came earlier than expected. He won control of the party in a contest between Mr Haughey and another right-winger, Mr George Colley, the Finance Minister. In a straight fight Mr Haughey is regarded as the favourite, but further contenders could again see the emergence of a unifying candidate.

Mr Lynch said that he had decided, irrespective of the outcome of the 1977 election,

that he would resign as leader during the present parliamentary term.

Other likely contenders for the post include Mr Michael O'Kennedy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, a possible compromise candidate, Mr Neil Blaney, an Independent Fianna Fail member with strong republican views, Mr Brian Lenihan, Minister for Fisheries, Mr Desmond O'Malley, Minister for Industry and a respected senior member of the party.

Roman Catholic opinion in Northern Ireland appears to be moving further towards nationalism and the election of a strong nationalist leader in the republic would encourage unionist opinion in the North. This is a political divide in the North. Northern Ireland's biggest party, the Official Unionists, could be split over its refusal to take part in the proposed constitutional conference. The old Vanguard grouping is openly threatening to break away and establish a separate political force.

Our Political Editor writes: The Government was shocked by Mr Lynch's sudden resignation. Lynch, who was Minister for Health, said in Whitehall that Mr Thatcher regretted his departure. The Government was also grateful for the new arrangements to which Mr Lynch agreed. Ministers are now apprehensive over their survival under Mr Lynch's successor.

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Mayor released: Mr Bassam Shaka, the Palestinian nationalist Mayor of Nablus, was released from the Military Governor in solidarity with Mr Shaka, announced that they would resume their functions. Mr Shaka's release defused tension in the West Bank, where there have been strikes, demonstrations, protest and stoning of Israeli vehicles. Brigadier Ben Eliezer said the advisory committee that he appointed to hear Mr Shaka's appeal had found the expulsion order was based to be substantiated, but it recommended a re-appraisal of the decision.

The Brigadier said that in deciding to cancel the order he took into account the welfare of Nablus and of the Shaka family, as well as a statement by Mr Shaka opposing acts of violence. The action against Mr Shaka stemmed from a statement he made in private to Major-General Danny Matt, the Coordinator of Operations in the Occupied Areas, which was interpreted as approval of a terrorist action in which 34 Israelis died.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Commons that he hoped the report would be carefully studied, especially by the local education authorities and teachers. "I believe it has an important contribution to make to the further development of secondary education," he said. The main teachers' unions welcomed the report, which they saw as broadly reassuring and providing a valuable contribution to the debate on education.

PLP saved from rebuff by chairman's vote

Lady Jeger, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, saved the PLP from a rebuff at the hands of its National Executive Committee by using her casting vote. The party was discussing who should prepare its election manifesto; some members wanted it to be drawn up by the NEC and presented to MPs as a fait accompli, but Lady Jeger disagreed.

Payments surplus
Britain's loss of capital through the summer relaxation of exchange controls has been more than offset by the inflow of foreign money. The result was a significant surplus of just over £450m on the capital account of the balance of payments between June and September.

Russian withdrawal
The first of 1,000 Soviet tanks left the East German town of Wittenberg in fulfilment of President Brezhnev's offer of unilateral troop withdrawal. NATO welcomed the move but pointed out that the withdrawals represented only a fraction of Russia's forces, superior in armoured forces in Central Europe.

EEC budget wrangle
The budget committee of the European Parliament has reaffirmed its recommendation that the 1980 budget submitted by EEC states should be rejected and a new budget requested. Committee sources consider it "extremely probable" that the necessary majority could be found in Parliament to carry out its advice.

Storms bring floods
High winds and torrential rain overnight brought flooding to much of Wales and the North-west. Many roads were impassable, with flooding up to four feet deep in places.

Hospital fire kills five
Firefighters were not hampered by locked doors when attempts were made to rescue five women who died in a blaze at a mental hospital at Duxton, Northampton. A fire officer said.

Chancellor averts clash with unions

A threatened breakdown in Government and trade union relationships was averted at a National Economic Development Council meeting. The unions were angry over the Government's handling of the National Enterprise Board, but a conciliatory approach by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, prevented the breach from widening.

Two jailed for life
A wife who got her lover to bludgeon her transvestite husband to death was sentenced to life imprisonment. Mrs Margaret Chapman and her lover, Peter West, were both found guilty after the jury at St Albans Crown Court returned unanimous verdicts. West was also given a life sentence.

A better Britain
In the past 30 years Britain's standard of living has improved to such an extent that what were once considered luxury goods are now taken for granted, a report says. Material well-being continues to increase despite the effects of inflation.

Meccano reconsiders
Union hopes of keeping the Meccano and Dinky Toys plant in Liverpool going received a boost when Alfox Industries agreed to "reconsider" its decision to close the factory with the loss of 900 jobs. But management said its purpose was merely to examine the position regarding employment laws.

Iran acquittal hint
The Iranians now seem to be making preparations for the trial of the 49 American embassy staff held hostage in Tehran. But the secretary of the Revolutionary Council said that if the prisoners were acquitted of spy charges they would be set free. Video tape in court: Evidence of police interrogation makes legal history at Derry, Kent. Christmas drinks: Which? advises shoppers to use a calculator to find the best buy. Buenos Aires: Moderate general named Argentine Army chief. Seoul: South Korean security chief turned on President because of jealousy, prosecution claims.

French seek new way to stop pollution

The French Foreign Ministry has expressed regret that the Bonn convention on cleaning up the Rhine could not be the basis for a new convention because the Socialists, Communists and Gaullists would all vote against it. The government is to carry out a new technological survey to find another way of disposing of the brine wastage of the Alsace-Petash Mines than dumping it into the Rhine.

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Emphasis on examination success criticized

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Criticism of many aspects of the Government's attitude towards secondary education, particularly regarding emphasis on examination results, is contained in a report by the Schools Inspectorate published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

The report contains the results of the first national survey of maintained secondary schools in England.

Although the criticism of the Government is implicit, the message from the inspectors, who take pride in their independence, is clear. There is also criticism of parents, employers, and the general public for the pressures they put on schools.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Commons that he hoped the report would be carefully studied, especially by the local education authorities and teachers. "I believe it has an important contribution to make to the further development of secondary education," he said.

The main teachers' unions welcomed the report, which they saw as broadly reassuring and providing a valuable contribution to the debate on education.

The survey indicated that schools were on the whole pointing in the right direction, and that most teachers and pupils were working hard, but that there was room for improvement in many areas, and cause for serious concern in a few.

The report shows that over-emphasis on examination results in the past two years of compulsory schooling is crippling initiative, curiosity and pupils' ability to discriminate. The Government plans to require all schools to publish their examination results every year.

While schools were generally providing a reasonable education for the child of above average ability, provision for the less able needed urgent attention in many areas.

The inspectors advocate a single system of examining at 16-plus. Less than 5 per cent of schools were considered too permissive, while nearly one-fifth were too authoritarian. The report favours so-called "progressive" teaching methods. Courses in "modern" mathematics were found more effective than traditional mathematics.

If you must wake your Secretary at 3am...

£100,000 award set aside

An award of £100,000 damages to Stuart Whitehouse, aged nine, for the crippling brain injuries he suffered during birth at Birmingham Maternity Hospital was set aside by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

By a two-to-one majority, the court cleared Mr Joseph Jordan, aged 40, a consultant obstetrician, of negligence in attending Mrs Eileen Whitehouse, nee Rowney Green, Lane, Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, when she gave birth to the boy, her first child, after 22 hours in labour. The court allowed an appeal by Mr Jordan and Birmingham Area Health Authority against a decision of Mr Justice Bush at Birmingham High Court last December that Mr Jordan "pulled too hard and too long" with forceps before carrying out a Caesarean section. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said Mr Jordan acted with every care and skill "in what was regarded by everyone as a high-risk case". Lord Justice Lawton agreed that negligence had not been proved against Mr Jordan but Lord Justice Donaldson said he would have dismissed the appeal.

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ME NEWS

Pay policy hurdle cleared in miners' deal

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The Government has cleared the most crucial hurdle in its campaign to win trade union acceptance of the need for realistic wage settlements after the clear vote from coalminers to accept the National Coal Board's pay offer.

Although the impending settlement of 20 per cent in the industry is still regarded as too high by miners, they were relieved that the miners had decisively rejected their union executive's call for authority to mount a national strike to drive up the price of coal in the industry.

The final result of the pithead ballot was: in favour of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive recommendation, 107,696 (48.75 per cent); against, 113,160 (51.25 per cent). The poll was 87 per cent, unusually high even for the miners. Mr Joseph Gormley, NUM president, said: "The offer has been accepted. You cannot interpret it any other way."

How the miners voted: The % breakdown

	For executive strike authority	Against executive strike authority
Yorks	73	90
Notts	35	77
S Wales	54	53
Durham	47	86
Coal staff and officials	20	39
Scotland	64	87
Midlands	30	73
Derbyshire	49	87
North West	45	82
N Ireland	45	84
Durham Mechs	33	77
Scotts Craftsmen	56	81
Cokemans	26	67
Mids Craftsmen	18	56
S Derbyshire	22	70
Leicestershire	22	62
Kent	48	90
N Ireland Mechs	30	33
N Wales	20	79
Cumberland	42	88
Yorks GMWU members	30	59
Durham Enginmen	19	61
National % for strike authority	49	81

So NUM leaders will go to the Coal Board today to sign the agreement that they rejected unanimously only two weeks ago. Few of them emerge with any credit from the debacle. One is certainly Mr Gormley, who had favoured a settlement, and another is Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the Yorkshire miners, whose electoral machine has proved its effectiveness once again. That will be a key factor in the race for the NUM presidency which cannot be delayed much longer. Asked if he would now move, Mr Gormley said yesterday that he would be considering his position.

Whatever its impact on the internal politics of the miners' union, the ballot result has certainly proved a source of significant satisfaction to the Cabinet. Mrs Margaret Thatcher said: "I need hardly say how pleased I was."

In detail, the pithead ballot showed the required 55 per cent majority for strike in only three areas of the NUM: Yorkshire, which scored an impressive 73 per cent vote for militancy; Scotland (64 per cent) and the Scottish craftsmen (56 per cent). The South Wales miners, traditionally leaders in the field, got a simple majority of 54 per cent, but failed to satisfy the requirement of NUM rules. Every other area voted "No," and the executive recommendation fell miserably in the big fields of Nottinghamshire, Durham, Lancashire, and the Midlands.

Mr Michael McGhey, president of the Scottish miners and the union's national vice-president, blamed the NUM executive for sabotaging the original claim for rises of 35 to 63 per cent by indicating to the NCB that they would accept 25 per cent. That meant that the miners were asked to authorize a strike for only 5 per cent more than the NCB had offered.

Mr Scargill said he was disappointed with the overall result, but that he was satisfied with the result in his own coalfield. "I regard that as a massive vote of confidence," he said.



Mr Joseph Gormley: "The offer has been accepted."

The settlement, details of which are expected to be agreed today, will put the miners on a minimum of £101.55 a week, and production bonuses that averaged more than £26 at the last count more than six months ago, will probably push actual earnings at the face close to the £140 target laid down by the NUM annual conference in July.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, said on being told the result: "The miners' decision means that we can go on working together to defend our markets and jobs, and to continue our industry's expansion." In the run up to the ballot, the coal board plugged the message that a vote for strike action was a vote for loss of jobs because it would lead to higher coal imports by the industry's big customers—electricity generating and steel.

said yesterday that he would be arguing still for the full claim at today's executive meeting, in support of his own membership in Yorkshire (the Press Association reports). But he said: "I accept the decision of the miners' ballot because I am a democrat. I would accept there will be no call for strike action anywhere because we have had a democratic ballot." He still believed a higher claim could have been settled without industrial action.

At a conference organized by the Institute of Directors, he warned the Government that it was sitting on a "political time bomb" with its trade union reform laws. It was a "recipe for confrontation on an unprecedented scale," he told businessmen in London.

Mr Scargill said the proposed restriction on picketing was potentially the most dangerous challenge to the trade union movement.

He predicted a period of political crisis with confrontation and mass arrests if there was any attempt to claim damages from any unions as a result of picketing.

Unions would refuse to pay, he said, and the courts would have to jail either the picketers or the union leaders or both. Or, as then would strike in support.

"We would, in a nutshell, be facing a class political confrontation of a magnitude unimaginable only a few months ago," Mr Scargill said.

"I can assure anyone that workers will respond in a united way to what they see as an unwarranted attack on the trade union movement."

"The trade union movement has made its position clear, and if this Government has learned anything from the experiences of the past few years, it will recognize the political facts of life and drop this highly problematic mess of political posturing before it is too late."

Mr Scargill said the proposals for secret postal ballots for unions as "subtle interference" in union affairs.

Support for BSC as men refuse to strike

The first sign that the British Steel Corporation may win the support of some of its unions came yesterday when a proposal for a national strike by 12,000 blast furnacemen was heavily defeated.

They voted by 57 lodges to 10 against a stoppage proposal put forward by the executive of the National Union of Blast Furnacemen and Coke Workers and Kindred Trades in support of steelworkers at Corby, Northamptonshire, who are fighting against partial closure.

Mr Hector Smith, the union's general secretary, said yesterday: "The executive was very disappointed that the recommendation was turned down. But I would not advise the steel corporation to assume that they will not take action if they are pressed further. The executive has the power to order other industrial action."

"We have not given up the fight for Corby. We will support the TUC steel committee's views." The rejection of an all-out strike over Corby by the blastfurnace workers' union was not unexpected. Their own members in various parts of the country are also threatened.

The vote was taken in the knowledge that the BSC management threatened to cut 55,000 jobs and limit this year's rise in basic pay to 2 per cent.

The union executive yesterday formally rejected the offer. Mr Smith said: "We are seeking a further meeting with the corporation to try to open up other avenues."

He did not see any point in productivity talks. Craftsmen's decisions: A further sign of support for BSC came from leaders of 35,000 craftsmen in the industry (our Labour Editor writes). The leaders were debating the corporation's offer of 2 per cent plus productivity bargaining.

The National Craftsmen's Coordinating Committee did not reject the offer outright, as the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the largest union in the industry, has done, but agreed to take to the executive of each union for further consideration.

Further talks are to take place with the craftsmen early in the new year, by which time the attitude of the confederation will be clear. Regional meetings of steelworkers are being held in advance of tomorrow's meeting of the confederation, which is expected to announce a strike next month over the wage offer and BSC proposals to close plants with a loss of 55,000 jobs.

The corporation has offered the unions a £24m wage package from January 1, payable as an across-the-board rise of 2 per cent. In addition, the corporation is willing to negotiate local productivity deals giving up to 10 per cent more, but payable only as a lump sum, three months after proved improvements in the performance at plant level.

Mr Callaghan rescued by Lady Jeger's vote

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

Only the casting vote of the chairman, Lady Jeger, yesterday saved Mr James Callaghan and the Parliamentary Labour Party from another rebuff at the hands of the party's national executive.

The issue for this week's heated discussion was preparation of the party's election manifesto, which last October's party conference agreed in principle to give the NEC alone for final decision.

Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Eric Heffer had drawn up a paper recommending preparation by the NEC of a continuous manifesto with continuous updating. Mr Benn wanted that document endorsed yesterday, and then to have the manifesto discussed with the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Benn, according to Mr Hayward, replied by observing that the PLP had not been consulted over the 5 per cent pay limit, the 1976 spending cuts, nor the NEC. He insisted it was essential to be ready with a manifesto, and not wait until the last three weeks before an election.

Mr Michael Foot, deputy leader, suggested it all be left to the party's forthcoming commission of inquiry.

On the topic the NEC did unanimously agree to a request for a discussion of the inquiry's present composition from Mr David Barnett, who as chairman of Trades Union Congress had urged that the NEC be unbalanced to the left. A meeting was being sought before Christmas.

What value the unanimity carried remained to be seen.

Cover-up warning by MP on Labour infiltration

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

By keeping under lock and key documents describing the methods used by left-wing extremists to infiltrate constituency Labour parties, the national executive of the party has itself opened to charges of a "cover up," Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Rillingdon, Hayes and Harlington, said last night.

Because he has been refused a sight of the documents, Sandelson said, he was submitting a request for a subcommittee to be set up to examine the documents. He said he was dealing with an examination of documents nearly three years ago, since when there has been mounting evidence of organized infiltration within the Labour Party.

"The time has surely come for a full evaluation of these documents. Keeping them under lock and key will inevitably give rise to more than just the suspicion of a 'cover up'."

He said last night that he was making the correspondence to the press because the NEC had persistently ignored any requests he had made for an investigation into the conditions ruling in his local party.

BL inquiry report out next month

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' inquiry into the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson the BL shop stewards' leader, will not be able to report its findings before the middle of next month, it was stated when the inquiry opened in the union's Birmingham headquarters yesterday.

The six-week delay is bound to antagonize Mr Robinson's supporters, who have already criticized the decision to hold an inquiry as an attempt to resolve the confrontation which followed his dismissal.

It had been thought that the inquiry team of Mr Ken Cure, Mr Gerry Russell and Mr John Weakley, all moderate members of the union's national executive, would announce their findings before Christmas. If they report that Mr Robinson was unfairly dismissed, Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, has said that he will have no choice but to call an official strike.

However, Mr Cure revealed yesterday that further hearings will take place on December 17 and January 9.

Mr Robinson, Mr Jack Adams, secretary of the BL unofficial joint shop stewards committee, Mr Bert Benson and Mr Bill Jordan, Midlands officials of the union, gave evidence before lunch yesterday.

When the inquiry is resumed in Birmingham on December 17, the day will be given to taking evidence from Mr Robinson, shop steward colleagues and full-time union officials.

Drug factory is found in Eire

A man who once ran a Sobha-based pornography predicate is thought by Irish police to have organized a drug factory discovered at the weekend.

The factory was found when a drugs squad raided two farmhouses in the village of Hospital, Co. Limerick. The suspected man has not been seen by the authorities in Britain or Ireland for some months.

Mr Biffen hints at more cuts

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, sent alarm warnings clanging through the Commons yesterday when he intimated that the Government was planning new cuts in public spending in the next financial year above those already accounted for in the White Paper on the government expenditure plan for 1980-81.

Opening a debate on the White Paper, he said that public spending on a massive scale had been a significant destabilizing element in the economy over recent years.

As Labour MPs questioned him repeatedly on the possibility of further cuts, Mr Biffen refused to commit himself, other than to say that the situation would be kept under review and that unexpected developments could force the Government to take further action. The extent to which present plans could be altered, he said, depended to a significant extent on pay and price increases.

Opening the debate for the Opposition, Mr Healey, the former Chancellor, interpreted

Mr Biffen's reticence as indicating that there would be further cuts next year. The Chief Secretary, he said, made it pretty clear by the way he was dodging questions that he was planning new cuts.

What Mr Biffen did make clear was that there would certainly be "substantial reductions" in the spending plans of the previous Labour Government for the years after 1980-81. He told the House that the Government had been reviewing those plans and the revised figures would be published in a White Paper early in the new year for the years up to 1985-86. He could not say anything about the contents of that White Paper.

Mr Biffen, however, was in stark contrast to Mrs Thatcher when she spoke an hour or so earlier at another function in the Palace of Westminster about the serious economic recession which was forcing the Government's hand. Whereas the Prime Minister seemed doubtful that a recession existed, Mr Biffen was in no mood for optimism. What over indicators were chosen, he said, the outlook for the economy next year was not promising. Forecast of gross

domestic product suggested a drop of 2 per cent and throughout the world there was great international uncertainty.

Wherever one looked there was evidence of a pause in world economic activity and in the levels of world trade. Mr Biffen agreed with Labour MPs that the cuts already announced could not be accounted for merely by cutting back on waste and administrative costs and that there would have to be cuts in services.

Mr Healey was in an unusually constructive frame of mind. Describing Mr Biffen's activities as "galloping bar economics," and saying that the Cabinet was split between the Treasury monetarists and the more cautious ministers in other departments, he said his policies would not have produced a 20 per cent inflation rate with a monetary growth rate of well under half that.

An Opposition amendment calling for the rejection of the White Paper because it would lead to higher unemployment, poorer public services and increasing inflation was defeated by 302 to 249. Government majority 53. The White Paper was then approved by 301 to 232. Government majority 69. Parliamentary report, page 6

Shell dispute disrupts bus services in Scotland

Continued from page 1

The Esso dispute is separate from the Shell issue and is a response to the company's refusal to increase its pay offer of about 20 per cent. Shell drivers have rejected a similar offer, but Mr Ashwell said last night: "I foresee a settlement of the pay dispute."

In addition Esso tanker drivers at 35 depots have threatened to start an overtime ban from today. Esso said it could lead to a third of its supplies being affected.

The Shell dispute came to a head last week when the 500 men at 14 depots refused to cooperate with contract labour and were suspended.

The TGWU executive will be under pressure from the negotiators to make the dispute official. However, there appears to be little likelihood at present of the dispute spreading to other oil companies.

Scottish disruption: The Shell dispute continued to disrupt bus services in the west of Scotland and in Fife yesterday (a Staff Reporter writes).

Some Shell garages in the central belt ran dry and it was forecast that all bus services in Glasgow and Dundee would run to a halt by the weekend unless fuel was delivered.

The Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive said yesterday that Glasgow's fleet of a thousand buses would be withdrawn from all routes in the city between 6pm on Friday and 6.0 am on Monday.

Glasgow has introduced peak services only, from 6.30am to 9am and from 4pm to 6pm daily.

Mr Charles O'Halloran, convenor of Strathclyde Regional Council, said in Glasgow yesterday that 81 schools and colleges were having to be closed or partially closed to preserve fuel stocks for heating.

Mr Steel woos Mr Jenkins

By Our Political Staff

In his desire to see created a radical social democratic party and to break down the political barriers of British politics, Mr Roy Jenkins, the former Labour politician, has no need to look farther than the Liberal Party.

That was the message of Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, in a party political broadcast last night.

"The need to break up the present two-party system has never been more pressing," Mr Steel said.

In an appeal obviously made with the election at Herfordshire, South-West, in mind, Mr Steel said his party needed allies and support.

Wales and North-west suffer in storms

Strong winds and heavy overnight rain brought floods to many parts of Wales and the North-west of England yesterday. The storms caused difficulties for motorists in many other areas.

In Wales, more than an inch of rain fell in places. Scores of roads were under water, some to a depth of four feet. The A5 between Caerdydd and Llandegai and Menai Bridge.

The River Dore overflowed in the Machynlleth area and several feet of floodwater closed

the A487 to light traffic at Derwenlas. The B4404 Machynlleth to Cemmaes road was also under water, but said to be passable with extreme care.

Farmers in the Dorey Valley were warned to move livestock to higher ground and many country roads were impassable. Flood warnings were also issued for the Severn and the Weir in Mid-Wales.

There were fears that more floods could be caused in coastal areas at high tide.

At Bangor 700 children are having the rest of the week off

while safety checks are made at Friars Upper School, where a new gymnasium collapsed in a storm on Tuesday.

Elsewhere in Britain, the RAC warned motorway drivers to reduce speeds because of the high winds. The M1 and M4 were worst affected and there was a 40 mph limit on the Severn Bridge.

In the North-west there were floods, 3ft deep on the A580 at Worsley, Greater Manchester. An inch of rain fell overnight in the area. Floods were also reported in Halewood

Boy, 4, killed by pillar collapse

Carl James, aged four, was killed last night when the pillar at the end of a wall collapsed and buried him as he played near his home in Courthouse Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

He was released by neighbours and ambulance men who dug with their bare hands in the rubble. He was taken to Westminster Hospital, Slough, but was found to be dead on arrival. Police said: "At the moment the circumstances of the accident are not clear but we are investigating."

Barmaid is found strangled in back seat of car

From Our Correspondent

Southampton

The body of Miss Teresa Elena de Simone, aged 22, was found in the back seat of a car today. The police say that she had been sexually assaulted.

She was either choked or strangled and her half-naked body was left across the car seat. Det. Chief Superintendent

Mr. H. J. H. in charge of Hampshire CID, said that sex was the motive for the murder.

The body was found only 50 yards from Southampton's central police station and law courts.

Miss de Simone, of Reynolds Road, Shirley, Southampton, had a daytime job as a clerk with the Southern Gas Board and also worked part time as a hairdresser. Mrs Mary Sedotti, her mother, said that her daughter had only taken the barmaid's job to pay for her car.

Headless bones found in forest

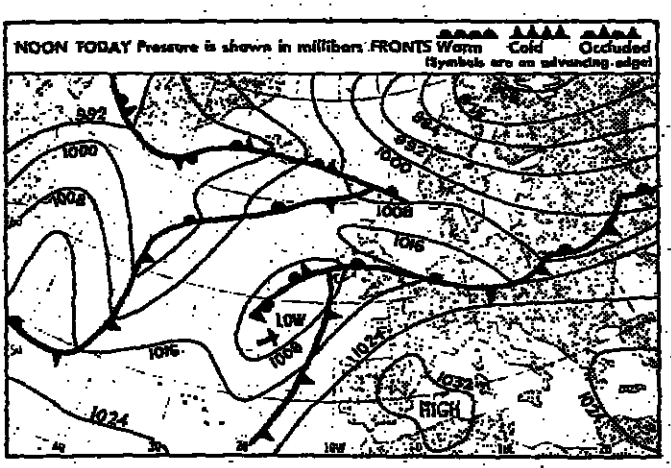
A headless skeleton, thought to be that of a child, has been found by police in Epping Forest, Essex. Twenty-four hours earlier a skull was discovered in undergrowth by a man out metal detecting.

A pathologist will examine the remains today to try to establish the cause of death. Detectives searched the area near the junction of New Road and Manor Road, Buckhurst Hill.

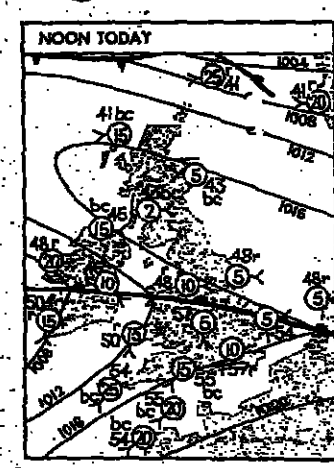
22,000 Fiats recalled

Fiat is recalling about 22,000 Mirafiori saloon, estate, super, and sports models for checks and modification, if necessary, of their steering columns.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.30 am. Sun sets: 3.33 pm.
Moon sets: 9.51 am. Moon rises: 6.51 pm.
Last quarter: December 11.
Lighting up: 4.23 pm to 7.21 am.
High Water: 6.30 am, 6.30 am, 6.30 am.
Low Water: 12.24 am, 12.24 am, 12.24 am.
Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, SW, England, Channel Islands: Cloudy with rain, becoming moonier dry with bright intervals; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 14° to 15°C (57° to 59°F).
Wales: Mostly cloudy with rain becoming moonier dry from S; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 13° to 14°C (55° to 57°F).
E. NW, NE, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy, dry at first, becoming moonier dry from S; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 13° to 14°C (55° to 57°F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals at first, becoming cloudy with rain later; wind W; light or moderate; max temp 12° to 13°C (54° to 55°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Cloudy with rain in most places; brighter drier weather spreading from SW, mild or very mild everywhere.
Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.
St. George's Channel: Wind S, strong with local gale; sea rough.



Yesterday
Temp: max. 6 am to 6 pm, 16°C (61°F); min. 6 pm to 6 am, 12°C (54°F). Humidity: 60 to 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.019 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,019.5 millibars, rising, 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.
Overseas selling prices
Australia 51.50, Austria 30, Belgium 30, Canada 30, Denmark 30, France 30, Germany 30, Greece 30, Hong Kong 30, India 30, Italy 30, Japan 30, Korea 30, Malaysia 30, Mexico 30, New Zealand 30, Norway 30, Portugal 30, Spain 30, Sweden 30, Switzerland 30, Taiwan 30, Thailand 30, Turkey 30, U.K. 30, U.S.A. 30, West Germany 30, Yugoslavia 30.

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HOME NEWS

Guidelines to Roman Catholics call for sympathetic understanding of homosexuals

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

While upholding the traditional church view that homosexual acts are "disordered," a set of guidelines published today by the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales calls for a sympathetic understanding of homosexuals and an end to injustices against individual homosexuals.

The document is the third and most conservative of recent church documents on homosexuality, and does not set out to question the rightness of the traditional Christian disapproval of sexual acts between people of the same sex.

Both the Methodist Church and the Church of England have before them at the moment reports by working parties which reject the traditional view and both reports have run into much opposition. But those churches are answerable only to themselves, while the Roman Catholic Church takes its fundamental position from the most recent Vatican ruling.

The moral disorder involved in homosexual acts, the document states, should not lead priests to assume that every such act is gravely culpable, and circumstances and degree of

responsibility should be taken into account. Priests are reminded that in the confessional a penitent is entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

Homosexuals who feel that they are not called to a life of celibacy and who therefore choose to enter stable sexual relationships in preference to promiscuity are doing something that the Roman Catholic Church regards as morally unacceptable.

But the document asks: "Are such persons necessarily culpable? A judgment cannot be made in the abstract, but only in the concrete circumstances."

The document, which was drawn up by the Social Welfare Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference and the signatories of the National Conference of Priests, rejects discrimination against homosexuals as such and points out that the church is itself not morally "blameless."

The church, it adds, has a special duty to oppose injustice in society directed at homosexuals. With its observance of traditional teaching, this latest document is unlikely to cause much controversy in church circles, although it is being regarded as an extremely tol-

erant interpretation of that teaching.

One authoritative interpretation yesterday was that it accepted the possibility that Roman Catholic homosexuals in a stable sexual relationship could receive Holy Communion without qualms of conscience in certain circumstances, once they had discussed their attitude with a confessor who understood the nature of the problem and the intention of the church's general teaching.

It asks that clubs and societies specifically for Christian homosexuals should not automatically be regarded as morally dangerous, and social occasions organized by them should not be treated as necessarily suspect. This is believed to be the difficulty faced by organizations of Roman Catholic homosexuals in finding church premises for social activities.

The document also gives a warning against the assumption that homosexuality is an abnormal condition, and points out the difficulties likely to arise if a homosexual marries. The *Pastoral Care of Homosexuals* (Catholic Information Office, 74 Galloway Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, 25p).

Prison staff prepare for official action

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Officers' Association is preparing to take official action unless the Home Office agrees to pay claims that have caused a bitter dispute in the service.

A subcommittee is to coordinate plans nationally which, if put into operation, could disrupt the hard-pressed prison system. Detailed organization of action is to be at the discretion of local branches.

One issue angering officers is over claims for meal breaks, which caused the crisis in the prisons last year and brought the system to the verge of breakdown before Mr Merlyn Rees, then Home Secretary, announced the formation of the May inquiry committee. Some court proceedings were also affected.

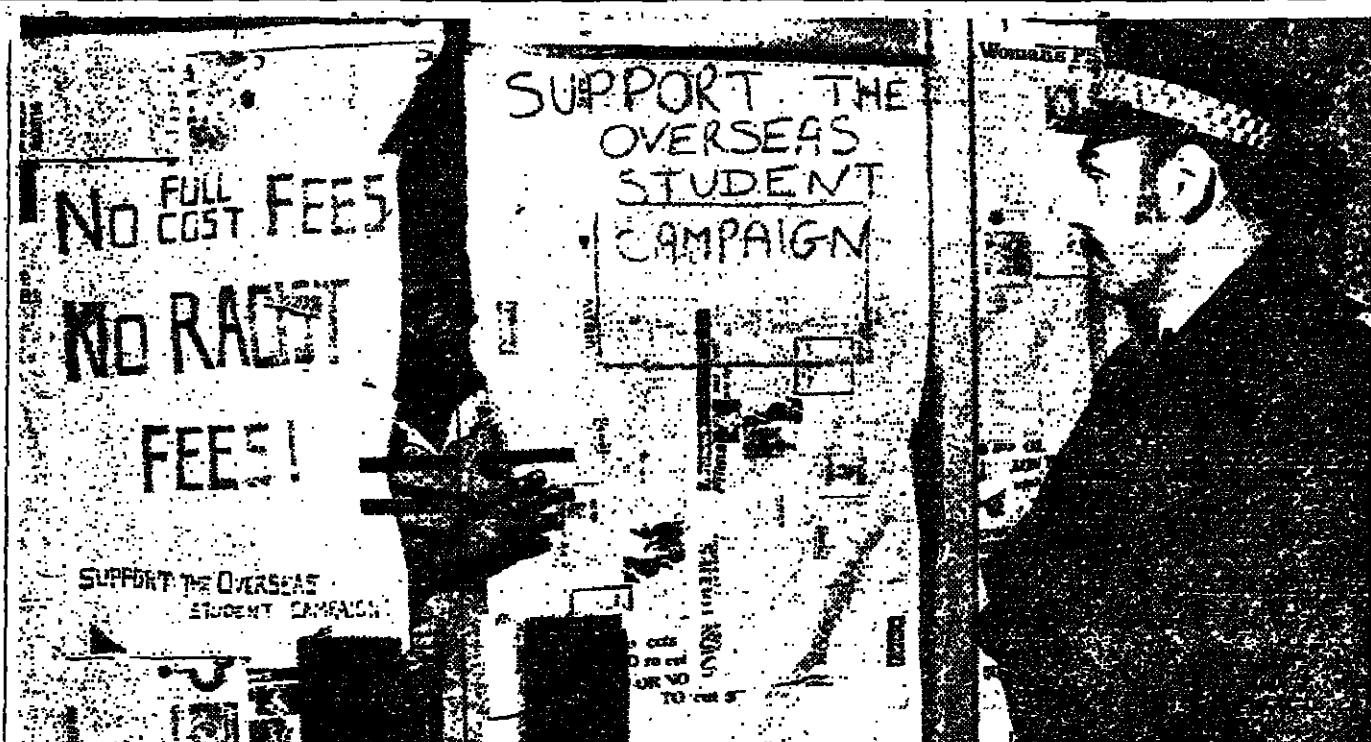
The Government has since prepared detailed secret contingency plans in case of further trouble. The presence of terrorists and other dangerous criminals in dispersal prisons and overcrowding in local ones have created an explosive mixture. The national delegates' conference of the association, held over the past two days in London, has been annoyed by what the officers called a "unilateral" pay offer recommended by the inquiry team.

Mr Peter Rushworth, the association's deputy general secretary, told delegates yesterday that unless the Home Office accepted some of the association's pay claims, the national executive would have no alternative to industrial action.

The inquiry is into Hackney Borough Council's attempt to stop the National Front, NF Properties Ltd, Benjamin Ltd and Leachhouse Ltd, the printing firm, from using 73 Great Eastern Street as the offices and administrative headquarters of a political party and as a publication and distribution centre.

Mr Michael Stubbs, a Leachhouse director and a former member of the National Front, said that his company did not print on the premises. "I have applied for planning permission to install a printing press of my own, and once I have got that approval, the firm's turnover will increase substantially," Mr Stubbs said. "Would this mean that you would be able to offer employment opportunities in the borough, open to all races?" Mr Sedley asked. "Would you employ black people in the company?"

Mr Stubbs told the inquiry, held in Hackney Town Hall, that there was a dispute between some members of the National Front's directorate and the three companies about how the premises should be used.



Polytechnic occupation: Police talking to students who occupied the City of London Polytechnic School of Business Studies in Moorgate, London, yesterday. The occupation, which prevented hundreds of full-time and day-release

students from all over London attending lectures and classes in law, economics and accountancy, was in protest against the Government's proposed increase in fees for overseas students (Ian Bradley writes). About 14 per cent

of the polytechnic's 2,500 full-time students are from overseas. The thirty occupying students left the building early in the evening after the polytechnic had obtained an order for repossession from a judge in chambers

Mr Revie's resignation 'disgraced football'

By Craig Seton

Football Correspondent

The Football Association considered that Mr Don Revie brought disgrace to the sport when he resigned as manager of the England football team in this country, Mr Justice Canfield was told in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, for the association, said the FA had a duty to protect the game and the power to exclude anyone who it felt had acted to harm it. Such matters were properly dealt with by the sporting authorities rather than a judge in the High Court, he said.

Mr Johnson was making his closing speech in the second week of the hearing in which Mr Revie is challenging the 10-year ban on his involvement in domestic football. It was imposed by an FA commission after he resigned as England manager in July, 1977, to manage the national team of the United Arab Emirates.

Counsel said football was the most popular sport and the number of people who went to watch other sports comparatively trivial. Ten million people watched *Match of the Day* on television. There were 30,000 clubs under the FA's jurisdiction.

No other sport in the country comes anywhere near it and when Sir Harold Thompson (chairman of the FA) is dealing with the affairs of the asso-

ciation it is not just the England team, but with this enormous structure of which the England team is the shop window," he said.

Johnson said it was "simply good sense" to say that the FA had jurisdiction over everybody involved. In the view of the association Mr Revie had brought disgrace to the sport, and he was subject to the rules of the FA, which was entitled to ban him.

Counsel for Mr Revie has said Mr Revie was not bound by the FA rule book because he was an employee under contract, not a member of the association.

When Mr Justice Canfield asked if football was not part of the entertainment industry, Mr Johnson replied that it was a sport whose purpose was the promotion of sport, not commercial gain.

Mr Revie had been given a fair hearing by the association. No intelligent and informed bystander would think there was a real possibility of a miscarriage of justice.

Referring to remarks said to have been made about Mr Revie by Sir Harold to newspapers before the FA commission hearing which eventually banned him, Mr Johnson said: "He was simply putting words to the effect that he must have been thought by everyone in the football community."

The hearing continues today.

Court sees recording of suspect's questioning

From Our Correspondent

Gravesend

Magistrates at Dartford, Kent, yesterday became the first in Britain to see what happened when a defendant was interviewed in police custody. Video recordings taken of the questioning of Susan Tustin, aged 19, charged with theft, were shown to them.

For four months earlier this year the police at Dartford took part in an experiment for the National Commission on Police Procedures. During that time some interviews between suspects and the police were recorded, but only with the suspect's consent.

Miss Tustin, of Lansdown Place, Fife, Sussex, appeared on four charges of theft. She denied one charge of stealing £25 from her former employer, a newsagent's in the town, and a second charge of stealing £5. She admitted attempting to steal £5 and another offence of stealing £13.50 from her landlady.

The court was told how Miss Tustin was arrested after her employers suspected her of under-ringing some purchases. She was taken to the police station and interviewed. She was alleged to have admitted attempting to steal the money and stealing about £30 over a period.

She was taken to another room, where senior officers and scientists from the Cranfield Institute video-taped her making a statement.

The video recording was produced in evidence but stopped after only a few minutes because of the poor quality of the sound.

The magistrates decided to continue the case using handwritten statements. Mr Roderick Wood, for the defence, said he was quite unable to listen to any more of the tape. He added: "It may well be that the courts will find such films and interviews of great significance but one must beware of the significance of a film that merely sets the scene of an interview."

The magistrates found Miss Tustin guilty of all four offences and fined her a total of £120. She was ordered to pay a total of £35 compensation.

House deal was racially biased, crown court told

A Midlands couple whose neighbours planned to sell their house to a coloured man were the defendants in an action at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

It was alleged that they had tried to induce their neighbours to discriminate against the coloured buyer. The Commission for Racial Equality sought a declaration that they had acted unlawfully.

The action, described as the first of its kind in Britain, was brought by the commission against Mr and Mrs Alan Hardman, of Westmead Drive, Langley, Oldbury, West Midlands.

Mr Malcolm Knox, for the commission, said that last September, a Mr and Mrs Watkins agreed, subject to contract, to sell their house to a Mr Jhal for £16,500.

Later, Mrs Hardman telephoned to Mrs Watkins and was upset about the sale of the house to a coloured buyer. The Hardmans held a meeting of neighbours, and later asked the Watkins if they were interested in a cash offer.

An offer of £16,500 was made and accepted by Mr Watkins. The hearing continues today.

Out of the frying pan into...

A man acquitted yesterday of shoplifting was arrested as he left the court and was charged with stealing a furor's coat. Ronald Marks, aged 34, of Wellesley Road, Bford, Essex, had been found not guilty by a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court of stealing food from a supermarket. He will appear soon before magistrates on the new charge.

Sale of Chelsea site to college given go-ahead

The Government has decided to allow the Greater London Council to sell the seven-acre site of the college of St Mark and St John to Chelsea College, London University, for £18m, even though higher bids were received.

In a letter to the council, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he had regard to the site's previous use as a college of education.

It is widely accepted that the sale of the 99-year lease to Chelsea College will go ahead at a ground rent of £10 a year plus a £10m premium. The site includes four buildings listed as of architectural or historical interest.

Offers of more than £2m had been received.

Government abolishes two social service quangos

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government last night confirmed that it is to abolish both the Personal Social Services Council and the Central Health Services Council saving £225,000 a year.

The announcement was made on the eve of the publication by the PSSC of a report stating that the most vulnerable people are at risk of being disproportionately penalized by public spending cuts.

Announcing the decision in a written answer yesterday, Mr Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said it had been taken in the interests of reducing the num-

ber of separate and overlapping channels through which ministers receive advice and of achieving administrative economies.

However, the answer made clear that the cost of the two bodies will not be completely saved. The training function of the PSSC will be continued by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, another quango that was considered to be in danger but which has now been assured of a future.

Mr Jenkin has received many representations pleading for the retention of the PSSC since its impending closure was disclosed in *The Times* two weeks ago.

Choices for pan-African security

By Kenneth Gosling

Tanzania's invasion of Uganda may have established a precedent of one African country invading another in order to overthrow its regime. Professor Ali Mazrui said in his fifth talk of the 1979 Lectures on BBC Radio 4 last night.

Africa was confronted, he said, with a choice between a system of collective security and a system of international vigilantism: an African high command or a police force under the organization of African Unity would provide the structure for pan-African security.

Professor Mazrui, who is professor of political science at the Michigan University, said Dr Julius Nyerere had violated international law partly to

return Uganda to the rules of international decency, thus helping to end arbitrary rule in Uganda by resorting himself to an act of international arbitrariness.

It was a reminder of the old American frontier days when vigilance committees tried to maintain law and order.

"I would not worry too much if every African vigilante was Nyerere—human, sophisticated and sensitive to the wider implications of every act of policy. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that."

Professor Mazrui said a marriage was needed between Dr Nkrumah's old idea of an African high command designed to keep imperial invaders at bay and the newly proposed pan-African force designed to put the African house in order;

Africa should be protected both from external enemies and from internal deviants.

He said Africa's entire identity crisis was captured in the fate of a ward of his named Michael, whom he last saw in 1976.

On the day he arrived in England to record the Keith Lectures he received a letter to say that Michael, barely 20 years old, had died in the war between Uganda and Tanzania.

When I first met him in Kampala he was Sudanese. When he last saw him, Michael was Ugandan and a detainee in a Kenyan prison—because he was a Ugandan. "Africa is almost mortally fragmented. The second largest continent of the world also happens to be the most divided."

NF member shouts at inquiry counsel

By Penny Symon

A National Front member angrily interrupted a public inquiry yesterday with a shout of "You're joking!" to Mr Stephen Sedley, counsel for Racial Equality, who had asked whether it would ever be the policy of a printing firm to employ black people.

The inquiry is into Hackney Borough Council's attempt to stop the National Front, NF Properties Ltd, Benjamin Ltd and Leachhouse Ltd, the printing firm, from using 73 Great Eastern Street as the offices and administrative headquarters of a political party and as a publication and distribution centre.

Mr Michael Stubbs, a Leachhouse director and a former member of the National Front, said that his company did not print on the premises. "I have applied for planning permission to install a printing press of my own, and once I have got that approval, the firm's turnover will increase substantially," Mr Stubbs said. "Would this mean that you would be able to offer employment opportunities in the borough, open to all races?" Mr Sedley asked. "Would you employ black people in the company?"

Mr Stubbs told the inquiry, held in Hackney Town Hall, that there was a dispute between some members of the National Front's directorate and the three companies about how the premises should be used.

Police chief alleges libel over killer hunt

By Penny Symon

Chief Supt Alfred Horobin, of Derbyshire police, now divisional commander at Alfreton, claimed in the High Court yesterday that he was libelled in *The Daily Telegraph* in an article which linked his move from the CID to uniform duties with alleged criticism of the handling of the search for William Hughes, a four-times killer.

Mr Horobin told Mr Justice O'Connor that his request to leave the CID was made long before the Hughes incident. Mr Hughes killed four members of the Moran family before being shot dead by a police marksman.

Mr Horobin, aged 42, is suing *The Daily Telegraph* Ltd, Mr William Deedes, the editor, and Mr Stanley Goldsmith, a journalist, for damages over the article, which appeared on Feb-

Police chief alleges libel over killer hunt

By Penny Symon

ruary 2, 1977, under the headline "Massacre search CID chief goes back in uniform". The defendants deny libel and contend that the report was fair and accurate.

Mr David Eady, for Mr Horobin, said that the article wrongly implied that Mr Horobin led the search for Mr Hughes. It also implied that he had done so incompetently.

Mr Horobin said in evidence that after seeing *The Daily Telegraph* article he "felt sick, distressed and dirty". Mr Peter Bowers, QC, for *The Daily Telegraph*, suggested to Mr Horobin that so far as the Derbyshire CID was concerned he was the coordinator. Mr Horobin replied: "No, I was not the coordinator."

The hearing continues today.

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HOME NEWS

Survey shows 'damage to the breadth and quality of education'

Too much emphasis on examination success in last two years at school, inspectors say

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The last two years of compulsory schooling are dominated by the requirements of public examinations, the Schools Inspectorate says in a report published yesterday. That has damaged the breadth and quality of the education given to pupils in many schools, it says.

The report, published by the Department of Education and Science, gives the results of a survey from 1975 to 1978 of 384 grammar, comprehensive and secondary modern schools in England and Wales, representing a 10 per cent sample of all maintained secondary schools. Each school was visited by a team of inspectors over a one-week period.

The inspections, restricted to the fourth and fifth years of secondary schooling, were particularly directed at four main areas: mathematics, English, science, and personal and social development.

The dominating influence of public examinations is seen in every part of the curriculum. Schools were naturally anxious to secure examination qualifications for their pupils. Rightly or wrongly, examination results were commonly perceived by the school as the sole indicator of its success in the eyes of the community.

In consequence, schools tended to enter as many pupils as possible for as many examinations as possible, and to adopt teaching styles regarded as necessary for examination success. Those styles were not necessarily conducive either to the best examination results or to the best education.

There was too much heavily directed teaching, with a preponderance of dictated or copied notes, emphasis on the giving and testing of information, with little room or time for inquiry or exploration of applications.

Such an approach often produced sustained and careful industry, but the inspectors doubted whether pupils were gaining sufficient experience of ordering their own efforts. The exclusive pursuit of examination results did not necessarily promote work of quality.

Pupils and parents had a right to expect schools to promote valuable personal and intellectual qualities such as curiosity, the ability to express views succinctly, the capacity to work as a member of a team and to work independently.

Work that fostered such qualities was not incompatible with examination objectives. Public examinations had a proper role and could benefit education. But they must be made to serve the educational process rather than determine it.

The fault lay less in the nature of examinations than in the way they were used. The survey indicated passive acceptance by teachers of the system and of the pressures it imposed on schools.

The public, particularly parents and employers, had some responsibility too. If schools believed that their work was appreciated only as far as it was reflected in examination results, they would be tempted to subordinate all else to achieving those results.

That was already leading to the entry of pupils from below the ability range for which the examinations were designed, with consequent disappointment for the pupils or, in some schools, a high rate of absenteeism from the examination itself.

The day-to-day assessment of pupils' work could also be improved. Marking of written work needed to be more critical and constructive. An explicit and consistent assessment policy should be established in all schools. A big obstacle was lack of time.

In most schools teachers and pupils worked hard and had some solid achievements to show. The great majority were orderly communities where much good work was done, even to promoting the well-being of individual pupils.

The range of behaviour accepted as reasonable was wide and took into account such factors as the nature of the local community and the tradition of the school. The inspectors felt that almost 80 per cent of schools struck a reasonable balance between the permissive and the authoritarian.

Just less than 20 per cent of schools were thought to be over-permissive. More than 5 per cent too permissive. Authoritarian and permissive schools alike were associated with poorly organized systems of pastoral care and poor leadership.

Only 7 per cent of schools reported considerable behaviour difficulties among pupils. More than one-fifth of the 384 schools surveyed were considerably troubled by the absence of discipline, with the apparent acceptance of parents, and a further 38 were

considerably troubled by truancy, that is, absence unknown to parents. Vandalism was a considerable problem in only 17 schools, and theft in 38.

Turning to styles of teaching, the inspectors found that the best work was done by skilled and confident teachers who employed appropriate class, group, and individual teaching methods and inquiry-based approaches to suit the kind of learning demanded.

It was clear that there was no one best way of organizing pupils for all purposes. For some purposes, groups of varied abilities might be suitable, while for others more homogeneous or mixed-ability groups might be more appropriate. Grouping by ability was common in most schools surveyed.

In some schools, grouping into bands of ability was too rigid, and prevented pupils working at their best level in different subjects. In such schools, that type of banding tended to reinforce teachers' earlier expectations of the pupils.

Mixed-ability groups were sometimes set up as a matter of policy in years four and five, but were more usually involuntary at that age level and resulted from the organization of the wide range of options offered to pupils.

In such cases, there was a tendency for the same teaching methods and materials to be used for all pupils within the group.

The introduction of a single system of examining at 16-plus might ease some of these difficulties, the inspectors suggested.

Given the large measure of self-determination that schools enjoyed, they appeared remarkably similar in their broad characteristics. The establishment of comprehensive schools and the raising of the school-leaving age had not led to any radical reshaping of the curriculum.

The apparently wide range of options available in some schools was not necessarily reflected in the choices available to individual pupils, nor did it necessarily produce a balanced educational programme.

Yet the effort to provide a large range of options often resulted in a complex organization that made it more difficult for teachers to coordinate pupils' learning to plan and consult, and to attain a com-

prehensive view of the curriculum offered by the school and of their contribution to it. It might be time to develop a more explicit rationale of the curriculum as a whole, the inspectors said.

Science... Most schools expected or encouraged pupils in the fourth and fifth years to take at least one science. But 9 per cent of boys and 17 per cent of girls in the sample did no science at all, and more than half were studying only one science subject.

Most science courses concentrated on concepts and failed to provide the opportunity to observe applications. About two-fifths of schools did not have enough laboratories. Half of full-range comprehensives and grammar schools and two-thirds of other types of school needed more science laboratories.

In physics, about 16 per cent of teachers had no qualifications and 5 per cent had no qualification in any science subject or in mathematics. Mathematics had a secure place in the curriculum with more than 80 per cent of pupils following courses leading to CSE or GCSE examinations. Only half of the schools made adequate provision for the less able pupils and improvement of those courses was urgent.

Traditional or modern courses, or a compromise between the two, were found in roughly equal proportions. Modern courses appeared more effective.

Many schools were responding to the demands for more numeracy by concentrating narrowly on computational skills in a way that easily became counterproductive.

The notion of numeracy should include the ability to make rough estimates, and the ability to apply knowledge in fresh circumstances, the inspectors said.

Availability of pocket calculators was likely to increase, and their proper use would demand radical rethinking of some parts of mathematics syllabuses. Microcomputers could affect all areas of the curriculum.

A training programme was needed to improve the qualifications of 2,500 or 4,000 teachers of mathematics. Nearly a quarter of the teaching of mathematics in years four and five was by teachers lacking a qualification. Aspects of secondary education in England were being inspected by HM Inspectors of Schools (Stationery Office, £6.75).

THE VARSITY MATCH

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Public asked
to 'nose out'
the Ripper

From a Staff Reporter

Bradford Commander James Nevill of the Metropolitan Police said in Leeds yesterday that the murderer known as the Yorkshire Ripper was crafty, clever and cunning and has had a long lucky run.

Mr Nevill and Det. Chief Supt Joseph Bolton, of Croydon, have been in West Yorkshire for two weeks at the request of Mr Robert Gregory, the Chief Constable acting in an advisory capacity and helping to bring a fresh eye to the four-year-old search for the killer of 12 women.

The £200 advertising and poster campaign by police from the Scottish border to the Midlands has so far produced about 18,000 calls from the public, many are being investigated. Mr Nevill said that despite the response no one had identified the Ripper or given a clue to his whereabouts. Mr Nevill suggested people should employ what he called their 'copper's nose' for the man responsible for living somewhere carrying on normally and convincing people of his innocence.

Mackerel fishermen
accuse Government

From Trevor Fishlock

Fishermen in Falmouth are convinced that modern fishing methods employed by large trawlers from Scotland and the east coast will wipe out mackerel stocks in West Country waters.

With the November to March mackerel season well under way, they are concerned that inshore waters are being fished out, and they want the Government to force visiting trawlers to work further offshore.

Local men are protected by regulations which allow them to fish inshore while prohibiting 'out' of Falmouth, Plymouth, Brixham, Newlyn and smaller ports. Over the past few years mackerel catches have increased tenfold. Local men feel that they have struck the balance between good business and conservation.

Local fishermen feel that these lessons are not being heeded. They cite the overfishing which ruined stocks of North Sea, Icelandic and British Columbian herring, and Californian and South African pilchards.

Danish skipper fined over
chase in North Sea

A North Sea chase, in which a British fishery protection ship, HMS Jersey, was said to have fired two warning shots when the Danish trawler, Venneberg, refused orders to stop, was described at Grimsby Magistrates' Court, Humberside, yesterday.

Mogens Jensen, aged 27, the Danish skipper, pleaded guilty to failing to obey the gunboat's order to stop, and was fined the maximum of £1,000. Mr John Wynne, for the prosecution, said that an ugly

situation developed after HMS Jersey had put a three-man boarding party on the trawler in the North Sea.

Instead of obeying an order to make for Grimsby, Mr Jensen set out for his home port, Esbjerg. HMS Jersey called for a frigate.

His catch showed herring mixed with sprats—herring fishing is forbidden in the North Sea under EEC regulations—but the ministry would not proceed on that matter.

Tate Gallery is
given the
Hepworth works

The Tate Gallery has been given the Barbara Hepworth Museum at St Ives, Cornwall, after the museum ran into financial difficulties. Despite attracting 13,000 visitors a year, it has been losing £10,000 a year.

Dame Barbara died in 1975 in a fire in her studio in St Ives, which destroyed, among other things, the gallery, and Professor Alan Bownes, the new director designate, used her sculptures to make a museum at the studio.

Youth admits he
threw dart
at goalkeeper

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

A Nottingham Forest supporter who last Saturday hurled a dart at Arsenal goalkeeper, hitting him in the left arm, was angry because his team were losing 1-0, Nottingham magistrates were told yesterday.

Clifford Marriott, aged 17, an apprentice bricklayer, was remanded in custody until December 21 while reports are prepared with a view to bailing him. He pleaded guilty to malicious wounding.

The court was told that Marriott, of Basford Flats, Nottingham, was on licence from borstal.

Growth in heating by gas container

By Dan van der Var

Fears of another winter of discontent and the unending rise in heating costs are producing a retro boom in the sales of butane gas heaters and canisters before the cold weather has truly begun.

That form of heating, essentially a simple gas fire, completely mobile because it needs no flue (although the room in which it is used must be properly ventilated) and fuelled by a straightforwardly replaceable metal gas container, hardly existed in Britain 10 years ago.

About 11,000 heaters were sold in this country in the winter of 1969-70. The sales graphs of the principal manufacturers of heaters have been steep since, passing 450,000 a year ago and confidently

expected to pass 700,000 this winter.

Mr Carl De Camps, director and general manager of Calor Gas Ltd, which dominates the butane gas tank market, and also sells one of the most popular heaters, calculated that there were already two million butane heaters in use in Britain.

They are increasingly favoured, not only by householders trying to cut their central heating bills, but by public houses, restaurants, garages, shops and churches.

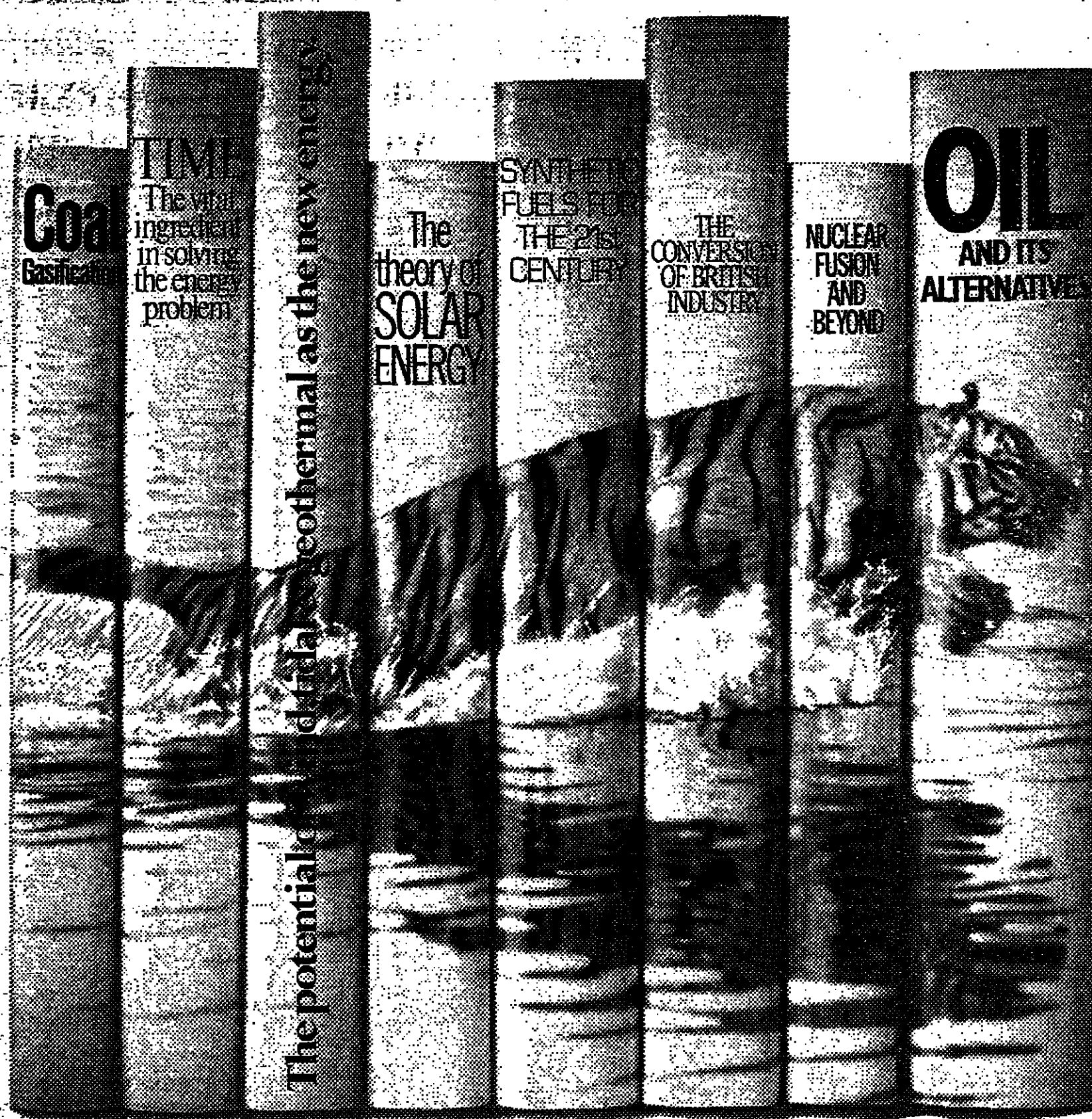
Mr De Camps attributed the boom to the increasing publicity being given to industrial unrest possibilities in winter and to the efficiency of this type of heating.

A spokesman for Valor Ltd, an unrelated company which makes two popular butane heaters, said there had been a shortage of both heaters and gas bottles last year.

Butane is a by-product of oil. A total of about 1.25 million tonnes of butane and its heavy-duty relative propane (liquid petroleum gases) are consumed in Britain each year.

The North Sea could, it is estimated, easily produce five million tonnes a year once the technical difficulties associated with skimming of the gases from the oil are mastered.

It is quite clear that butane gas heaters are rapidly replacing paraffin stoves because they are simpler to use, potentially less dangerous and they make no smell.



You've had the theory. Now for the practice.

Esso have spent more than £1,500 million developing North Sea oil.

Searching for new sources of oil and gas around the world is costing us several million pounds a day.

We have spent £1,000 million on the Alaskan pipeline.

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We are partners in a £120 million coal liquefaction research project.

We are world suppliers of nuclear fuel for electricity generation.

We are working on uranium enrichment, using both centrifuge and the more advanced laser technique, which we pioneered.

We are leaders in solar photovoltaics, used for communication and navigational aids.

To solve the world's energy problems will take massive investment, experience, and skill....

But it is only through more efficient use of energy now that we will gain the necessary time.



The world's leading energy company.

PARLIAMENT, December 5, 1979

Both sides agreed on Rhodesia ceasefire proposals

House of Lords
There could be no reason for delay in setting in train the arrangements for the ceasefire in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and for elections under British authority, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement. He announced that both sides had agreed on a constitution which guaranteed genuine majority rule, on the pre-independence arrangements, and on the ceasefire proposals.

Lord Carrington, in his statement, said: "In the Lancaster House conference on November 22, the Government put forward full proposals for a ceasefire, on which there have since been intensive discussions. The Salisbury delegation accepted these proposals on November 26. At this moment we are in touch with the Patriotic Front leaders and we hope that they will shortly be able to agree. Only the detailed implementation will then remain to be discussed. We do not envisage that these discussions will take more than two or three days."

Both sides have now agreed on a Constitution which guarantees genuine majority rule, on the pre-independence arrangements and on the ceasefire proposals. There can be no reason for delay in setting in train the arrangements for the ceasefire and for elections under our authority."

An Order in Council has been made and was laid before the House yesterday which provides for the appointment of a Governor with full executive and legislative powers.

The full text of the independence constitution has been given to both delegations. It is intended that an order providing for the constitution will be laid before the House in Council later this week.

The Government will also introduce into the House tomorrow (Thursday) the Bill which will allow Rhodesia to be brought to independence at the appropriate moment of the process of finalising the

No external interference in Zimbabwe under a British Governor

House of Commons
After Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and Chief Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman in the Commons, had repeated Lord Carrington's statement on Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Tower Hamlets, St. George's and Poplar, Lab.), said: "The House will have been encouraged by the statement. It would have been inconceivable that the conference should be allowed to fail so near to success or that we should have a ceasefire in Zimbabwe which is not a genuine ceasefire. The House will have been encouraged by the statement. It would have been inconceivable that the conference should be allowed to fail so near to success or that we should have a ceasefire in Zimbabwe which is not a genuine ceasefire."

We look forward to early announcement of the ceasefire. We would make it plain not just that South African intervention is unlikely, but that the British Government will be actively engaged in ensuring that the ceasefire is not a mere ceasefire, but a genuine ceasefire. We will be actively engaged in ensuring that the ceasefire is not a mere ceasefire, but a genuine ceasefire.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab.)—Does he accept that the responsible way in which the Patriotic Front has conducted negotiations has shown their commitment to be a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement?

Mr Ian Gilmour—We have no doubt that the Patriotic Front has shown a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement. We have no doubt that the Patriotic Front has shown a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement. We have no doubt that the Patriotic Front has shown a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement.

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Civil Service resistance to using computers

Mr. Paul Channon, Minister of State for the Civil Service (South-East, West C), said at a question time that he hoped soon to have discussions with the Civil Service unions about new technology.

Mr. Channon—The Civil Service is not averse to using computers. We are not averse to using computers. We are not averse to using computers.

Better industrial climate likely to be created if politicians stand back—Mr Biffen

Public spending must be mastered or else it would mislead the nation, Mr. John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Oswestry, C), said in opening a debate on public expenditure.

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Recovery may be painful but need not take long

The Government had failed to respond to the needs of the situation as they existed when it took office, Lord Carrington (Lab.) said in opening for the Opposition a debate on raising the rate of interest and unemployment.

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Mr Healey explains what he would have done

Mr. Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on economic affairs (Leeds, East, Lab.) said that no one denied that the White Paper proposals would increase unemployment.

Mr. Healey—The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment. The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment. The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment.

Mr. Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, Lab.)—Does he accept that the responsible way in which the Patriotic Front has conducted negotiations has shown their commitment to be a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement?

Mr. Denis Healey—The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment. The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment. The White Paper proposals would increase unemployment.



"I ask you to save a boat child"

Many thousands of child refugees have suffered weeks at sea in small, leaky boats, and the horrors of malnutrition and infection are a brutal reality for thousands more.

Over the first seven months of this year, 70,000 boat people arrived homeless and helpless in Hong Kong. Without medical aid from Save the Children and financial help from you, their plight, and that of many others in Kampuchea and Thailand, can only get worse.

I beg you, please, to give what you can.

Please send your donation to:
Yui Brynner,
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(Your envelope does not require a stamp)

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My Access Card No. is _____ No receipt sent unless specially requested
Name _____
Address _____

Save the Children

Several codes on safety to be published

Mr. Geoffrey James (Leicester, West, Lab.) said that new safety regulations and codes, respectively would be published in 1980.

Mr. James—Several codes on safety to be published. Several codes on safety to be published. Several codes on safety to be published.

One vote majority for angling Bill

Permission to introduce a private Bill to set up a Scottish Anglers Trust to administer all freshwater fishing rights in Scotland was given by the House of Commons.

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Traffic surveys

The Government is not satisfied with the existing system of national traffic censuses, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport (Leicester, C), said during a question time.

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Parliamentary notices

HOME NEWS

Arson not ruled out after fire kills five

From Arthur Osman
Northampton

Attempts to rescue five elderly women patients who died early yesterday when the ward at St. Christopher's mental hospital at Doston, Northampton, were not hampered by locked doors, a senior fire officer said last night.

"I was there, and as far as we were concerned, the question of locked doors presented no problems in fire fighting, or attempts to rescue patients. Smoke and flames were the trouble from burning bedding, lockers, and that sort of thing."

Mr Martin Pearson, an area health authority administrator, said: "This was not a designated locker ward. We have set up an immediate inquiry and while I am reluctant to say definitely whether or not one door on a corridor was locked for security reasons, we have been told by the fire service they were not hindered in any way. Obviously the inquiry will pay particular attention to this point."

"Patients are not allowed to smoke on the ward, but there are three day-rooms where smoking is allowed. The patients on this wing were not regarded in any way as a security risk."

The fire broke out shortly after 6.30 am in the wing which houses Schuster ward, with 24 beds, on the top floor of a three-storey building. The



Firemen examining damage to the ward where five women patients died.

Flames quickly spread and leapt 20ft through the roof. Police, nursing staff and firemen helped to move 150 patients out of the wing. Three required treatment for shock. The five women who died were all aged over 60 and were long-stay patients from the Northamptonshire area.

The hospital, which is one of the largest of its type in the

Midlands, has 26 wards and more than 500 patients. Schuster ward was recently redecorated and Mr Pearson said it had no "stable-type doors or side wards. The fire escape from the ward was at the end further from the main area of damage.

It took 50 firemen more than two hours to bring the blaze under control. The cost of

damage to the building was estimated at nearly £500,000. Police said last night that they were keeping an open mind about the possibility of arson.

A kitchen space and a day-room with easy chairs and recreation facilities immediately next to the ward were totally destroyed. Fire officers have sifted the debris to try to discover the cause of the blaze.

Report highlights changes over the past three decades

30 years on, Britain has never had it so good

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Britain has emerged from the austerity of the early 1950s, with rationing and shortages, to a standard of living in the late 1970s where what were once luxury goods are taken for granted, material well-being increases in spite of high inflation, and most people have more time for leisure.

That snapshot of the way people's lives have changed is offered today in the social commentary in the new edition of *Social Trends*.

Because the commentary looks at changes over three decades, it produces an essentially optimistic picture of the way standards of living have improved for most people. But the commentary also makes plain that the generally better material standards have not been shared equally.

Pensioners, in particular, are shown to have had the smallest proportion of rising standards, while families with children have suffered more than other groups from changes in the tax structure.

Three changes are picked out as affecting deeply the way living styles have changed over the past three decades. First,

opportunities for young people have opened up enormously. More and more stay on at school longer and go on to further and higher education, and they can afford to buy their own radios, stereos, cars and their own homes at increasingly early ages.

Second, many more women, particularly mothers, go out to work, raising the proportion of families with more than one earner. Third, workers have longer paid holidays and work slightly fewer hours, so that they have more time for leisure and hobbies.

Some of the most striking changes that flow from those factors are that the traditional English breakfast of eggs and bacon appears to have virtually disappeared and more families rely on convenience foods.

The greater leisure time available has led to an enormous boom in do-it-yourself activities, spurred on by the increasing difficulties of finding skilled craftsmen willing to charge reasonable prices.

More opportunities for the young and rising numbers of elderly people contributed to a marked change in the proportion of one and two-person households. In 1951, 11 per cent of all households consisted

of one person, and 27 per cent contained two people. By 1978 the proportions had risen to 23 and 32 per cent respectively, together making up more than half of all households.

In the early 1950s, nearly half the population lived in terraced houses, which tended to be the oldest property; four-fifths used coal as their main domestic fuel, and nearly half had no fixed bath or had to share one. By 1978, more than half the population lived either in semi-detached houses or flats or maisonettes, the main fuel used was gas, and only 4 per cent did not have the use of a bath or shower.

Throughout the 30 years, consumption of bread and potatoes in semi-detached houses or flats or maisonettes, the main fuel used was gas, and only 4 per cent did not have the use of a bath or shower.

The use of tobacco has gone down over the 30 years, but alcohol consumption has risen with beer remaining the most popular drink despite the rapid increase in the amount of wine drunk.

Public transport has given way to the private car as the

most popular means of travel, and the average price and running costs of cars fell in real terms between 1951 and 1977 while rail and bus fares rose by 50 per cent in real terms.

Real incomes rose more than expenditure throughout the period, and people spent more of their money on consumer durables whose prices came down in many instances because of technological changes. A monochrome television set cost twice as much in real terms in 1955 than in the mid-1970s. In the 1950s, less than 10 per cent of households had a television set; by 1978 the proportion was 90 per cent. In 1976 more than half the households with television had a colour set.

In 1956 only 8 per cent of households had a refrigerator, but in 1978 the proportion was 90 per cent. More recently, ownership of deep freezers has increased from 4 per cent in 1970 to 41 per cent in 1978.

The commentary offers no view on whether the changes amount to a better way of life. But it points out one matter of concern first noticed in the 1970s. In 1977, 25 million transistors were prescribed, compared with 16 million in 1967. Social Trends 10, (Stationery Office £12.90).

Couple get 'life' for transvestite husband murder

Margaret Chapman and Peter West, her lover, were found guilty by a unanimous verdict of the jury at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday, of the murder of Mrs Chapman's husband, Frederick, who, she said, was a transvestite. Mr Justice Stocker jailed them both for life.

The judge, referring to Mr Chapman, said: "He may, of course, have had weaknesses in his own character, but he was a sexual life. But the evidence is that he otherwise was

an inoffensive, hard-working man and he was battered to death as a result of an agreement between the two of you." The judge made no recommendation as to the minimum length of the sentence.

Mrs Chapman, aged 32, mother of two children, of Towley, Leicestershire, and Mr West, aged 38, of Ivel Court, Leicestershire, denied murdering Mr Chapman, aged 33, a former soldier, Mr West had admitted being an accessory after the fact of murder.

Mrs Chapman had told the jury that her husband flaunted his perversions at her. She said they made love only six times in their five-year marriage and she could not take his style of lovemaking.

She met Mr West, who went to her home for intercourse. She gave her husband sleeping pills, saying they were antibiotics for his sore throat and telephoned to Mr West at work and he went to her home. She showed him Mr Chapman asleep, clad in two women's

nighies and a white corset. She said she handed Mr West a garden spade and watched while he bled his husband to death. Afterwards they took the body in Mr West's car to a motorway bridge and pushed it on to the road below, hoping to make it look like a suicide.

The plan failed, however. The body was seen before it could be run over by vehicles.

Mrs Chapman was said to have told the police: "I hated him for being a pervert."

Murder inquiry into boy's death in blaze

From Our Correspondent
Hull

Police at Hull began a murder investigation yesterday after the death of Charles Hastie, aged 15, who, with his mother and three brothers, had been badly burnt when their home was set on fire.

His brother, Paul, aged 12, and Peter, aged eight, are in a critical condition. Their mother, Mrs Edith Hastie, aged 34, and the third brother, Tommy, aged nine, are seriously ill.

Det. Supr. Ronald Segar, who has 70 detectives on the case, said the fire had been started by lighted material stuffed through the letterbox.

Mr Walker rules out farm price rises

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

Immediate price rises for farmers were ruled out yesterday by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He refused to comment on the Government's response to an appeal from the National Farmers' Union for price rises through a devaluation of the green pound.

He gave a warning that the union's claim for a separate increase on milk might be rejected. "One has to judge the price that consumers are willing to pay," Mr Walker said at the Royal Smithfield Show.

He spoke after food processors had written to all members of the Cabinet urging them to resist the demands from the NFU. Leaders of the union presented them to Mr Walker on Friday, and told him that milk output would fall unless prices were raised.

"It is of no benefit to the dairy industry to pitch the price too high," Mr Walker said yesterday. Consumption of bottled milk had fallen by 2 to 3 per cent since the rice was raised to 15p a pint early in the summer.

The green pound is to be debated in the Cabinet today. If the Government decides to devalue, it will have to seek permission to do so at a meeting of EEC farm ministers next week. Mr Walker said that he would make no announcement until then.

"I am not going to get involved in any speculation about green pound devaluations," Mr Walker said. Experience had shown that when governments announced devaluations in advance "a load of foreign butter comes in and pushes English butter off the shelves."

The supreme champion at Smithfield, a steer named Phyl, was bought in auction yesterday for £8,000 by International Stores. That is equivalent to at least £5 a pound for the meat.

The supreme sheep champion was won by J. & J. Pope of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, who also won the prize for the best pen of lambs bred by their exhibitor. The winning animals fetched £180 each at auction.

BBC to televise 51 films during holiday fortnight

By Our Arts Reporter

BBC Television is to show 51 feature films in the 14 days around Christmas and New Year. That can be compared with 48 films in 11 days last year.

Announcing that yesterday Mr Alasdair Milne, managing director, BBC Television, said the holiday line-up of programmes on both BBC channels would cost £5.3m.

Films having their British television premieres include *The Sting*, with Robert Redford, on Christmas Day, and *Murder on the Orient Express* on New Year's Eve. On BBC 2 it will be mainly musical Christmas, with all six Beatles films being shown: a season of Gene Kelly films throughout the holiday period; and on Christmas Day the first television showing in this country of *Cabaret*, starring Liza Minnelli.

Other viewing highlights for the holiday period include: Christmas Eve: BBC 1, *Val Dore*; BBC 2, *The Go*

Between: Rolf Harris Christmas Special; BBC 2, *Star Over Bethlehem*; Alan Price.

Christmas Day: BBC 1, *Generation Game*; *Blankety Blank*; *Mike Yarwood Show*; *The Muppet Show*; *All Creatures Great and Small*; and *Parkinson*; BBC 2, *Face the Music* (Joyce Grenfell's last programme); *Sutherland*; and *Pavarotti* in recital; *Concert from Amsterdam*; *The Front Garden* (documentary); and *Salisbury*.

Boxing Day: BBC 1, *Jim'll Fix It*; *Where Eagles Dare*; *Are You Being Served?*; *Dave Allen at Large*; and *Max Boyce*; BBC 2, *Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet*; *Orkney*; and *Sing Christmas* (King's Singers); *New Year's Eve*; BBC 1, *The Seventies Stop Here* (review of the decade); *Blue Peter* (review); BBC 2, *Old Greg Whistle*; *Test: The World Around Us*; *New Year's Day*; BBC 1, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*; *The Odessa File*; *Pinker*; *Tailor Soldier Spy* (concluding omnibus episode); BBC 2, *Dave Brubeck*, concert from Vienna.

Ministry denies papers in hedge contained secrets

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has denied reports that papers found under a hedge contained secret and highly sensitive information.

A ministry official said that the documents belonged to an official of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and were in a briefcase taken from his car last weekend. They were found on Tuesday, in the grounds of Polstead Rectory, near Ipswich.

The only classified document was a version of the ministry's internal directory which contained the names and job titles of ministry staff "but no sensitive details of job descriptions". All the papers were returned to the ministry.

A joint statement by the IPCS and the ministry said: "Reports that some documents contained lists of political and union agitators and information on people with abnormal sexual tastes are completely without foundation."

Two men fined for having birds of prey

Wild birds, captured illegally in the north of Scotland, were found at a house in Bradford raided by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Bradford Magistrates were told yesterday.

Two men were each fined £10. Victor Benn, aged 32, of Parkstone Drive, admitted having a buzzard and sparrow hawk recently taken from the wild, and Harry Dawson, aged 36, of Lowfield Close, both Bradford, pleaded guilty to taking and keeping, and obtaining £25 for it by deception.

Graham Benn, aged 26, of Wens Road, Bradford, who was said to have been looking after the buzzard temporarily, was given a conditional discharge.

Brother of boxer jailed for handling \$556,720 cheques

From Our Correspondent
Liverpool

Within a few days of the theft of American Express travellers' cheques worth \$556,000 (about £420,000) being stolen from a container in a ship in Liverpool, Gerard Connel, 26, brother of John Connel, the boxer, arrived at the Hilton hotel in London and took two suitcases to his room. It was stated at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

Detectives followed him and found the cases stuffed with stolen cheques, with more in the wardrobe. Mr Connel, of Burnley Road, Burnley, pleaded guilty to dishonestly handling cheques worth \$556,720 (about £420,000). He was jailed by Judge Lawton for four and a half years.

Three other men were jailed on a similar charge. Robert Bradshaw, aged 56, of Colmore Drive, Thingwall, Wirral, was jailed for five and a half years after pleading guilty to the same offence. He was of Gloucester Place, Westminster, was jailed for seven years, with one year of a suspended sentence to run consecutively; and Frank Davies, aged 48, of Allington Road, Barnet, London, for three years. Mr Wells and Mr Davies pleaded not guilty.

Philip Shields, aged 29, of Lower Breck Road, Anfield, Merseyside, pleaded guilty to the same offence. He was of Brunel Close, Everton, both Liverpool, were found not guilty, and discharged.

Migrant's health file 'was leaked'

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association is investigating a complaint from Mr Martin Bernstein, a consultant surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, that information about one of his patients was passed without her consent to the Home Office by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The association is also looking into allegations that confidential information about foreigners being the National Health Service is being passed to the Home Office by the Department of Health and Social Security.

It was most unlikely, Mr Bernstein said, that the patient gave her consent when told that the check must be made on her residential status.

The hospital clerk gave the young woman's address and the date of her clinic appointment to the department. The surgeon had never, in fact, seen the patient. When he was told about the checks and their result he telephoned the woman's doctor and suggested that she should be warned not to come to his clinic because she might be arrested as an illegal immigrant.

Mr Bernstein regarded the whole matter as affecting seriously the doctor-patient relationship and as a breach of medical ethics. "Doctors and nurses are not allowed to tell even a solicitor anything about a patient without the patient's consent." The speed of the reply to the request for a check implied that the information had come from a computer.

The BMA said that whether the foreign patient was in Britain legally or illegally he must have no qualms about seeking medical help. That was in the interests of the community; otherwise, an epidemic might be started.

The matter of entitlement to the use of the health service resulted largely from a DHSS circular last October about foreigners using the service.

The circular drew hospital administrators' attention to abuses and asked them to watch for ineligible patients trying to get free treatment. If the patient was treated as an emergency case and was then discovered to have come to Britain with the purpose of getting medical treatment, he should be charged as a private patient, the DHSS circular said.

For some time the BMA has been urging a national code of practice to protect confidential information on patients.

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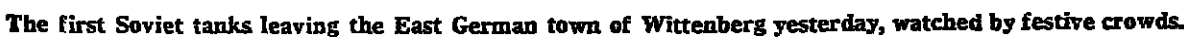
So if you think there's a chance your old boiler is losing the fire in its belly—fill in the coupon.

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siles already deployed in the east, the alliance would create a position of equality.

Nato reservations: Welcoming the Soviet troops' making up their minds to leave, the Soviet Union to reduce its troops in East Germany, Nato said today that the withdrawal would "represent but a fraction of the Soviet Union's capability in ground forces and armoured capability of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies in Europe," said a spokesman (writes Michael Hornsby from Brussels).

In a statement issued by Dr Josef Luns, the Nato Secretary-General, the alliance underlined that the Soviet Union "now has bases, either operational or under construction, which will support the deployment of over 600 SS20 (mobile missile) warheads".

Nato expected the phasing out of some older Soviet SS20 missiles, but said that their withdrawal had been extremely slow, Dr Luns added.

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec. 5.

The French Government today showed itself almost as disappointed as the Dutch at being unable to persuade the National Assembly to ratify the Ems-Paris convention clearing up the Rhine. "The Government really intends to keep the international engagements which have been taken by France," M. Pierre Hume, the Minister of Finance, said after today's Cabinet meeting.

The Government's decision not even to put the convention to the vote in the Assembly was taken yesterday when it was realized that the Socialists, Communists and the Gaullists would all vote against it and that it would therefore be defeated by a large majority.

Instead the Government is to proceed with a high technological survey to find out how the salt produced as a by-product in the Alsace Potash Mines can otherwise be disposed of. Meanwhile the Government has decided that the salt is not poured into the river at anything above 1972 levels.

The chances of finding a satisfactory alternative do not seem to be very high, however. M. Michel d'Ornano, the Minister of the Environment, has said that as far as he can tell the method proposed by the Government is the only one.

appeal for sons

and others ended in June, 1978, with varying prison sentences. Sigurd Curcio was sentenced to 15 years in jail. The group were on trial for crimes committed before the main developments in Italian terrorism.

Their statement today called for unity among extreme left-wing groups and an understanding between those inside the high-curtain prisons and those whose aim it should be to help in their liberation.

Their first target was scared to be the Asinara prison where a number of the terrorists are being held and where rioting broke out in early October.

Some of the explosions occurred during the night in the Alto Adige (South Tirol) area. They were aimed at tourist installations including a hotel and a cable railway.

device to outv

extradite the former monarch and that the students' threat to try the hostages will lose much of its meaning if the Shah leaves the United States for Egypt or some other country prepared to offer him asylum.

Once he leaves America, the hostages, and the Iranians use the threat that word for their prisoners, cease to be hostages. They would be merely prisoners of the Revolutionary Council.

According to Dr Beheshti, the students do not want to try the prisoners themselves, a statement which contradicts something the students have said before, but would "ask a revolutionary court to take responsibility for such a trial."

This afternoon, the students, who have generally acted as cheer-leaders to the Revolutionary Council, formally rejected the Council's call for the hostages' release. They also called on Saudis to rise up against American oppression," adding that their appeal was supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Strikes by Iranian oil technicians played a key part in the Shah's downfall.

As if such international concern for the revolution were not enough, the son of one of the leading clergymen on the Revolutionary Council declared today that he proposed to send

solution. We condemn the Government's military attack upon us. It was they who attacked us.

"At first we were not ready to resist war because they put pressure on our people," defended ourselves. Now the Government's attack has been smashed. But we still want a peaceful solution. Since all of us are living in a united country, we must find the best solution to the Kurdistan problem is a political solution."

I had been taken to the shakh's "safe house" in Mahabadi by two Kurdish guerrillas from the Marxist-Leninist Komala party, who had been driven from their headquarters—a drafty, half-finished apartment block filled with teenagers carrying rocket launchers and heavy machine-gun ammunition—by the old American Jeep.

The shakh did not feel very safe.

When you ask the shakh for his views on Ayatollah Khomeini, the words beads click faster.

"Ayatollah Khomeini's role in the revolution," he said, "can be divided into two parts. The first was as a leader of the people against the Shah. Here, we agreed with him. But after he seized power, he committed many mistakes. He ordered an attack on the Kurdish, 'banished' political parties and other groups and he took away the freedom of the press and

ted \$1,000m for investigators say

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 5

The American Government believes that the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iran "sets a new basis for action and approaches" towards obtaining the release of the Tehran Embassy hostages. The State Department would not offer any elaboration of this statement this morning.

A spokesman said that the National Security Council met again yesterday to examine the subject. It has been reported

Pravda said the article signed with the pseudonym reserved for the views of the Soviet leadership might be the first official Khrushchev comment on the Iranian crisis since the American ambassador's statement was stormed, and its tone could recall all previous press controversies.

Pravda said a dangerous and alarming situation was developing. Gross military and political pressure was being brought to bear against the Soviet Union by the powerful states in the world.

As a member of the Security Council the United States has a large responsibility to preserve peace, but was actually endeavoring to bring about a new superpower state.

Instead of showing a capability and composure in the present situation, instead of showing a firm and reasonable way out of the situation, without giving rise to emotions, certain circles of the United States are making a

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 5

Data from across the world, including the regions, was collected for the 12-month global experiment which ended Nov. 30.

The 130 member-count World Meteorological Organization made over 9,200 surface observations, 850 stations for upper atmosphere and ties on 700 merchant. Ten satellites were employed.

It will take two years to complete the data research which will, at least until 1985, all information is expected make seven-day forecasts at least as reliable as the three day forecasts are now.

Baghdad, Dec. 5.—Iraq today issued an ultimatum to Iran that if attacks against Baghdad's diplomatic missions were not stopped in one week, all Iraqis will be withdrawn from Iran.

Mr. Saadoun Hamzadi, Iraq Foreign Minister, summoned the Iranian Ambassador in Baghdad and delivered a stern warning, Mr. Hamzadi said, amounting to the fact that diplomatic ties could be broken if the Tehran authorities failed to stop the Iraq attacks.

The Iraq news agency reported the note as saying that Iraq attacks and provocations indicate that the Iraqi Government is either acting behind them or unable to control the situation in its own country.—UPI

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Dec. 5.

General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, has been nominated a commander in chief of the Argentine Army to take command at the end of the year.

The appointment is considered a victory for the moderate line in the armed forces in that General Galtieri has always expressed support for a return to democracy with few conditions. The hardliners have wished to purge Argentina of all elements they dislike before handing over nominal power to a set of civilians.

The hardliners' passing has been weakened over the past year. Their most senior officer, General Carlos Suarez Masca, was promoted from the com-

...vate church ceremony attended by the family and a few close friends. It was her third marriage.

**General named
my chief**

mand of the most powerful

over the release of Sen Jacobo Timerman, the left-wing editor, and was removed from command.

As commander-in-chief of the Army, General Galtieri will be a member of the military junta, the country's supreme authority, and given the preponderance of the Army over the other services, his is likely to be the decisive voice in appointing President Videla's successor in 1981.

Leading article, page 15

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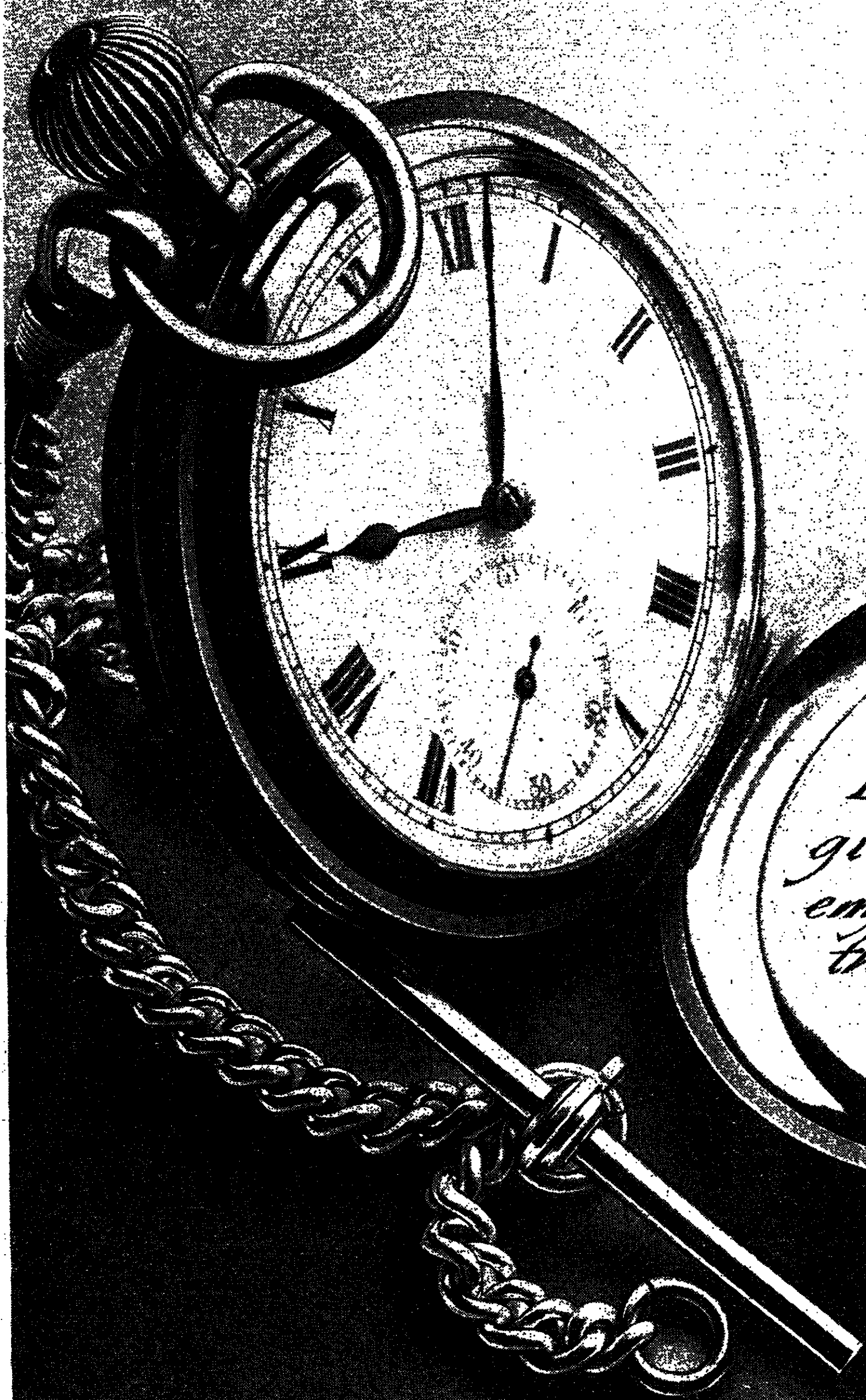
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*Would your
Bank Manager
give your retiring
employees more
than the time
of day?*

These days, many people running their own businesses would like to give retiring employees a bit more than a gold watch.

But (assuming that's how you feel) you wouldn't really expect your bank manager to look after them for you.

And you'd be wrong.

Because, if he's a Midland Bank manager, he could. You see, you really can expect the unexpected from the Midland.

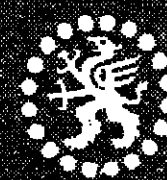
Your Midland manager has at his disposal a team of specialist companies and services which can, between them, help you to cope with all sorts of business needs.

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re general man
Army chief

[illegible]

Ronald Butt

The writing on the school wall

History does sometimes repeat itself for our instruction. It is doing so just now at Highbury Grove school. This school, well-known among London comprehensives for its attachment to traditional educational values and for the skill with which its then headmaster Dr Rhodes Boyson publicized them, has always been as popular with local parents as it is unpopular with the Inner London Education Authority.

When Dr Boyson went into Parliament a remarkable local action was fought by the school's governors and parents to prevent the appointment of a headmaster of a kind approved by the ILEA since this would have changed the fundamental character of the school.

What happened was that the governors simply refused to choose a short list of three (as they were supposed to do) from a longer ILEA list since they could not find on it three names of candidates who could be expected to continue the school as it was. There was one who might have done so, but they were pretty sure that the ILEA, which had the final say, would not have chosen him. In the end, the ILEA was forced to advertise the job nationally, and the appointment eventually went to the school's deputy head, Mr Lawrence Norcross, who has maintained the standards for which the school was known. It was a remarkable demonstration of local feeling.

Today, however, five years later, Highbury Grove is scheduled for closure by the ILEA under guise of amalgamation, and once more it is fighting to live.

Nobody disputes the need to reduce the size of school provision in Islington to match the fall in the number of secondary school children in the 1980s.

What is challenged is the ILEA's decision that the school to be obliterated is one that is over-subscribed (it is to be amalgamated with a school of a sharply different type and ethos) whereas under-subscribed schools of the "progressive" and "traditional" education is to be sharply altered in a way that suits the ILEA but not local parents.

Highbury Grove is, however, also a school which deserves to be assessed by what it offers and what it achieves. Although it never gets the target 25 per cent top ability element in its intake (in practice, its top ability band has usually been somewhere between 13 and 20 per cent) it secures a high proportion of places in higher education. What is more, it offers a range of subjects, particularly at GCE Advanced level,

which few London comprehensives now make available.

Among these are Greek, Latin, ancient history, design technology and geology. And here I come to the broader point which makes the decision about Highbury Grove one of importance well beyond the school itself.

As our education correspondent reported on Monday, a number of Oxford colleges have announced a scheme, based on lower than normal A-level requirements, for admitting a number of pupils from inner London schools to study philosophy, politics and economics. Such a scheme already exists for science candidates in Oxford.

What it amounts to is the provision of closed scholarships for a particular area. Why is it necessary? Plainly not because Oxford wishes to admit candidates who are below the level of ability that would normally be acceptable, but to do something to help those pupils of suitable ability who have been disadvantaged by the educational system.

It ought to be nothing short of shocking to us all that, as Dr Ord of Lady Margaret Hall has said, two of the science candidates who had been given conditional offers this year had no A-level physics classes at their school, and so were having to teach themselves.

Which brings me back to Highbury Grove. Out of 130 ILEA com-

prehensives, only four offer Greek and 24 Latin. (Of the 24 offering Latin, a number were recently grammar schools and are still living off their past. Some are more than likely to give the subject up.) Similarly, only 19 out of 180 ILEA comprehensives offer computer sciences, and only 25 design and technology. Highbury Grove offers all these subjects.

Why, then, is Highbury Grove designed for the chop? The ILEA will deny it, but at the circumstantial evidence suggests that it is because its educational face doesn't fit. That is believed not only at Highbury Grove but at other schools which share its general approach.

To the headmaster of Highbury Grove, it is significant that he has never been told by the ILEA that the school is doing a good job. Nor when it has been attacked on insubstantial grounds has the school ever been defended by the spokesman of the ILEA who leap to do so when a "progressive" school is attacked for indiscipline.

In fact, it is hard not to believe that the ILEA sees the whole thing in political terms, though not, let me hasten to say in political terms as understood by the ordinary Labour voters who support the school locally. When the new proposals were adopted, Mr Norcross was told blandly by a member of the ILEA

that, although he would be disappointed, "the Tories put up a good fight for you".

What we have here is the blatant politicizing of education. To the ILEA it is a partisan matter because they are determined that, although they want good academic results, this must always be in the last resort, be subordinated to their over-riding wish for social engineering.

In one sense all education is politicized. You can educate a child for a free society or for life under dictatorship. What you put in to a pupil is as important as what you draw out. Aristotle understood the political basis of education, and they understand it in Moscow. You can argue that the educational values of Mr Norcross and Highbury Grove are as political as those of the ILEA. But that is not the point.

The real question is: which are the values that parents want? The evidence is that they want something that Highbury Grove is giving, and which the ILEA dislikes, something for the lack of which Oxford has to compensate. Are not the largely working-class parents of Islington saying something about the authority when they choose this school and campaign for its survival?

Mr Mark Carls, the Education Secretary, should hear what they say and act on it.

Bernard Levin

Clearing up the eternal mystery of Mozart

Who was Mozart? I do not mean who in the sense of who was Shakespeare; this is not going to be a demonstration that his music was written by Saxon, let alone Count Zinzendorf, who wrote in his diary, after the first performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*: "The opera bored me". Perhaps I ought to put the question differently: what was Mozart?

I have raised this question in print before, on more than one occasion. Mozart, again and again, wrote masterpieces in fair copy straight out of his head, no sketches, no notes, no drafts, no erasures—out it came and down it went.

That is the first clue: there is no evidence of any musical gestation, even of the briefest, in a huge proportion of his work, including some of the greatest. I have said that Mozart was a conduit, through which music poured into the world's lap. But that inevitably raises the question: who or what was putting it in at the other end?

In a sense, of course, all artists are such channels, and their art flows along the archeduct of their life and personality, sometimes (as in the case of Beethoven) with unremitting pain and labour, sometimes (as with Schubert) with apparently effortless ease. In Mozart's case, however, the art didn't even touch the sides; he seemed almost to produce it unconsciously. Who was he?

It is to this question that Mr Peter Shaffer has addressed himself in his new play, *Amadeus*, which is to be seen at the National Theatre, and has been widely and grossly under-valued. Mr Shaffer's answer can be deduced from his title, at least by those who know what Mozart's middle name means; but it is in its facing of the implications, and the dramatic working-out of the question, that there lies the fascination and value of his masterly play.

It is well known that rumour has suggested over the years a



sinister explanation of Mozart's death: that he was deliberately poisoned by Salieri, the court composer in Vienna, to whom there came the worldly and material prosperity that eluded Mozart, but whose music is now utterly forgotten. From the delirium of his last fever, Mozart himself made the accusation, and ever since it has floated just out of reality's reach, though there is nothing in it, and never was.

One of the many things to the credit of *Amadeus* is the way in which Mr Shaffer makes the theory one of the central strands in his story: never allowing credibility to it, he shows us how it arose, and indeed suggests that Salieri wanted Mozart dead and did nothing to help keep him alive when his penury was besetting

him to his grave. But why would Salieri want Mozart dead? He was no threat to the favourite's position or income, and it is stretching jealousy too far to suggest that the thought of an artistic rival in his vicinity was so unbearable that he wanted Mozart made away with.

It is at this point that Mr Shaffer makes his great imaginative leap. For Salieri divides (a particularly apt word in the circumstances) that it is not Mozart who is his enemy; the play is a duel not between the two composers, but between the lesser composer and the power that he sees as animating his rival. Mr Shaffer, in short, has allowed Salieri to answer the question: what was Mozart? Mozart, he says firmly, was a musical instrument, played by the hand of God.

To emphasize the point, the author makes Mozart a vessel that, in one sense, is conspicuously unworthy to serve as the Grail of art. Mozart as a man had a silly and childish side, and he also had a pronounced taste for billiards, wordplay and scatological conversation, and this is the version of Mozart which we see in the play, and which has scandalized those who can only see Mozart as the best and tastefully dressed prodigy of the Carmontelle portrait, a picture which has probably done more harm to a true understanding of Mozart than anything Salieri could have done if a wicked fairy had granted him three wishes and he had used them all to spite his rival.

Hear first how Salieri stumbles upon the truth, during a poor performance of the *Wild Serenade* in B flat, K 361. Almost struck dead by the pain of the revelation, he flees:

... the pain cut deeper into my shaking head until suddenly I was running, dashing through the side streets, running down stairs into the street, into the cold night, gasping for life. "What? What is this? Tell me, Signore! What is this pain? What is this need in the heart? Is it Your need? Can it be Yours?" Dimly the stars shone on the empty street. I was suddenly frightened. It seemed to me I had heard a voice of God—and that it came from a creature whose own voice I had also heard—and it was the voice of an obscene child... at night I prayed for just one thing: "Let your voice enter me! Let me conduct you! Let me!"

His prayer denied, Salieri takes up arms against his adversary:

I have worked and worked the talent you allowed me... Surely that in the end... I might hear Your Voice. And now I do hear it—it says only one name: MOZART. Him you have chosen to be your sole conduct. And my only reward—my sublime privilege—is to be the sole man alive in this time who knows your secret: your incantation... So be it! From this time

forth we are enemies... I name thee now Nemico Eterno. And this I swear, To my last breath I shall block thy path on earth, as far as I am able...

There, then, is Mr Shaffer's explanation of Salieri's hostility to Mozart, and indeed his explanation of Mozart himself. God's frightful betrayal of his servant? "You gave me the desire to serve you—which most men do not have; then saw to it the service was shameful in the ears of the server..."

demands an opponent of fitting stature to challenge it, and if Mozart is God's incarnation, then Salieri is Goethe's Mephisto and Job's Satan, forever doomed to be defeated. "God needed Mozart, do you see, to let himself into the world," but he was not going to let Salieri deny him that need.

Mr Shaffer works out his tremendous, his colossal, theme in language of great strength and deceptively obvious sublimity; and there is a performance, as Salieri, by Paul Scofield, who should play the Olivier until Count Zinzendorf's view of *Figaro* becomes the generally accepted one. But a playwright like Mr Shaffer is not to be judged by standards applicable to the forgettable boulevardiers of our theatre; the angel he has conjured up, and wrestled all night with, is too big to be contained in a mere recital of the external qualities of his play, and those who go to it prepared to understand what it is about will have an experience that far transcends even its considerable value as drama.

"Whatever shall pass away," says Salieri after hearing *The Marriage of Figaro*, "this must remain!" I heard *Figaro* broadcast only a few days ago, in an indifferent performance recorded at this year's Salzburg Festival, in which even Kiri's Countess lacked its full glory, and the Vienna Philharmonic seemed to be playing with boons on their hands. But it didn't matter; whatever shall pass away, this remains, and lovers of Mozart—true lovers, who do know what his middle name means—should be profoundly grateful to Peter Shaffer for the courage with which he has faced an eternal mystery, and the humility and grace with which he has offered a tentatively eternal solution to it.

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Paul Scofield as Salieri, Felicity Kendal as Constanze Weber and Simon Callow as Mozart in Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*... a tremendous, colossal theme in language of great strength...



Could you leave this Christmas envelope empty?

There is someone who looks to you this Christmas for the only greeting she or he will get. Not merely for goodwill, important though that is, but possibly for survival itself, and certainly for happiness.

Who is she, or he? Over 70, utterly alone in the world, and dreading the accentuated loneliness of Christmas Day. Longing for the companionship of a Day Centre in one of Britain's large cities; or just longing for enough to eat if they're in one of the world's poorest countries. Put your sympathy into an envelope, and into action. With a gift that brings joy to someone who really needs your Christmas greetings.

Genuine help towards another Day Centre for as little as £20.

A comfortable fireside chair for a Day Centre £30.

25 Christmas meals for hungry old people overseas £5.

Commemorate a loved name. You perpetuate happy Christmas memories and help a Day Centre with an inscription on its Dedication Plaque for £150.

CAMBODIA. Help us feed the starving. Food supplies urgently needed.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to:

Hon. Treasurer, The Rt Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room TS, FREEPOST 30, London, W1E 7JZ (No stamp needed).

*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

New crusader's war on empty seats

In 1977-78 Britain's artistic organizations effectively wasted something like £20m—the value of the seats at concerts, plays and other events which were left empty and unsold.

The estimate comes from a new company, Subscribe Now!, which has a vested interest in remedying the situation, but if the actual estimate is open to debate, it is no secret that many theatres and orchestras regularly play to half full houses. It could be described as a scandal; it is usually accepted as a fact of life. However, there are signs of concerted efforts to turn those vacant seats into the money which the arts so desperately need.

The new apostle of arts marketing is an American, Danny Newman, and Subscribe Now! is running seminars with him next month to introduce arts administrators to "dynamic subscription promotion", a concept which has in fact worked very well for such bodies as the Scottish Opera and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The English National Opera signed up Newman earlier this week.

Subscription schemes provide guaranteed income, paid before the start of a season, and ensure less popular events are sold to people keen to book for the big attractions.

Sandy Wilson, who wrote those successful musicals of the 1950s, *The Boy Friend* and *Valmouh*, has provided a new musical for the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, this Christmas: it is a time-honoured subject for the season, *Aladdin*.

Other organizations working to improve matters include the Arts Council, which now has eight regional marketing officers, and hopes to appoint more soon. But it has been hampered by shortage of funds, which recently killed off a pilot scheme for joint television advertising theatres.

A poor business at London's theatres has at last caused West End managements to band together, with a development plan which includes market research to find out who actually goes to the theatre, and why.

They are examining ticket selling ideas, aided by another American consultant, Hugh Southern, who helped develop the half-price ticket scheme on Broadway. One innovation here, the Student Standby scheme, has proved so successful that it may be extended to all young people.

Nevertheless, I cannot help feeling arts organizations may in one way be their own worst enemies, because of their complaints about having to charge too much and hopes to appoint more soon. But it has been hampered by shortage of funds, which recently killed off a pilot scheme for joint television advertising theatres.

Instead the arrived from Moscow an autographed score, sent by Khachatryan himself



Schoolboys in Russian battle

When Robert Peel, head of the film department at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, sought permission to arrange for the school's symphonic wind band, he did not receive the expected reply.

ARTS DIARY

shortly before his death. The music turned out to be a sublime four large wind orchestra, *The Battle of Stalingrad*, which was the score for the film of that title.

Mr Peel diligently copied out the parts from the full score and, on Tuesday last, boys in the Brasserie band will be giving the British premiere of the work.

They will have a little help: *The Battle of Stalingrad* is such a big score that it needs the aid of the local Kenner Vale Brass Band have temporarily joined their ranks. "It will be a very loud noise," said Mr Peel, "so far as the sound goes, it would be the first performance of the work in the West."

Complaints that the Royal Ballet has too small a repertoire ought to be answered soon by the company's plans for its 50th anniversary season, in 1980-81.

Since it takes time to introduce a series of ballets, several revivals are taking place during the current season, so the works will be ready for display next season. Massine's *Monella* Angor will be revived next February and Tedley's *Voluntaries* will also reappear in the spring. Then Giffie, last presented by the

Royal a decade ago, returns in July.

The biggest undertaking among the revivals will not take place until 1981: it is Ashton's three act ballet *Ondine*, with a commissioned score by Hans Werner Henze. Originally created for Margot Fonteyn in 1958, it has been seen at Covent Garden since the 1966-67 season.

Several new ballets are also scheduled for the anniversary season, and the most important is likely to be a new full length work by Kenneth Macmillan. He has not yet announced his plans, but it is possible that the ballet will be based on the life of Isadora Duncan—a far cry from the violent drama of his last big work, *Mayerling*.

There is a worryingly commercial air about the National Film Theatre's main presentation in January, the *James Bond Films* (of which there have been 11 so far). Perhaps they felt the need for some box office attractions, because two other seasons next month are devoted to *The French Connection* Cinema and *New Films from Bulgaria*.

Angry words on the cuts

Tampers in this upper echelons of the establishment are becoming a little less over the subject of cuts in the arts.

Sir Claus Moser and Sir John Tooley, the chairman and the general administrator of the Royal Opera House, have been

issuing dire warnings that Sir Gordon will be ended by a cut in its grant, and Sunday Philharmonia. Three programme *Who Pa* Artist, the arts minister Norman St John-Stevas, so as if he had had enough. He referred to what he said "has been seen at Covent Garden since the 1966-67 season."

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Britain will have an opportunity next May to sample a *Fruits of Carlo Maria* collaboration with *Angels*. He starts his first tour with the orchestra Chester and London, cor Beethoven's *Eroica* a *Adagio* from Mahler's *4* and also ends the tour with *Mozart's 4* *Violoncello's Pathetic*.

Martin Hu

After coal, the chase is on for fatter pay packets

If there is one simple dream that ought to stand, framed, on every labourer's mantelpiece, it is this: Look for Trouble Where You Least Expect It. This random theory of industrial strife is even more appropriate in the light of the miners' battle with the rising tide of enthusiasm for an all-out strike in the state steel industry.

The miners have told their leaders that they do not want to take action to drive up the Coal Board's 20 per cent offer. Only in Yorkshire has there been a really convincing vote for a national strike, and even this has probably more to do with Mr Arthur Scargill's campaigning skills than any deep desire to go a-picketing again.

That the strike ballot was held at all can be put down to the ineptitude of the ruling moderates in the National Union of Mineworkers. By selling the reins of militancy from the left minority, the centre-right coalition on the executive exposed themselves to the embarrassing result they have now got.

It was they who, much to the consternation of their president Mr Joe Gormley, led the precipitate revolt against the Coal Board's 20 per cent offer. And it was their militancy, never very convincing, that has been repudiated by the men.

By any standards, the settlement is a good one. A free worker will now see £101.95 a week, with a 20 per cent bonus, which will lift that figure quite close to the original £140 claim. And as a hangover from the last settlement, they will get another £2.55 a week for waiting, waiting and winding time.

Protection of earnings

Furthermore, the industry will move back to its traditional anniversary date of November 1 in 1981, and there will be joint working parties on a shorter working week, protection of earnings for those who through injury or disease have to leave the face for a less well paid job, and on early retirement for surface workers. On past form all these benefits will be phased in.

The NCB can now get down to the job of producing coal at the right price for its electricity and steel consumers. The only shadow on the horizon is the threat of increased coal imports that would be resisted, as Mr Scargill warned yesterday, by strikes if necessary.

How very different it is next door at the British Steel Corporation, where the beleaguered management, caught in the downward spiral of a world recession, finds itself faced with the threat of a national strike by the largest union in the industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. The steelworkers point with some severity at the UIM settlement, arguing for a different economic policy as they were yesterday at the Neddly rather than urging discipline upon negotiators.

The outlook for an economic forum, which would down guidelines for pay year is therefore not good. Government has wisely done the idea for the time t sensing that it would not at trade union support.

Prior has his way, they come back to it but by then may be too late. The chase for fatter pay packets in earnest and the cuts are evidently not cow threats of redundancies in Paul Routledge Labour 1

"It reads like the battle honours of the industry," says ISTE general secretary Mr Bill Sims. Scarcely a plant is not touched by the BSC's appetite for job cuts—and every plant is subject to the 2 per cent offer. This is the reality of the Government's "range of settlements" theory. Elsewhere in the public sector, local government workers have been offered 13 per cent, and seem likely to accept that figure. The hospital ancillary workers may be expected to follow suit, though the water workers are likely to stick out for more. They are asking for 50 per cent, and gas workers (whose industry's profits are set to rise dramatically through a change in pricing policy) have also put in a stiff claim. The ambulance did well out of the Clegg Report, and the Government has apparently decided to keep the Comparability Commission alive to cope with any trouble in this field.

The really big money

It is in the private sector that the really big money is being paid out, sometimes by no means always under union pressure. Ford settles amicably enough at 21 per cent, and British Oxygen gets an overdue ban for under 30 per cent over 20 months. The merchant seamen got 2 per cent without a fight.

The CBI had this to say about the winter round at yesterday NEDC meeting: "The negotiations so far have not been encouraging. It claims, as in previous years, a completely unrealistic. Son are in excess of 65 per cent most are in the 20-30 per cent range plus reduction in hours and other benefits. Recent settlements suggest at best deceleration in earnings growth."

All parties to the NEDC unions, employers and government—have a common interest and responsibility to turn the economic position, the C argued, adding: "This particularly means achieving responsible and realistic pay settlements and as rapid a sustained improvements general affluence and productivity as possible."

The TUC has shown its enthusiasm for such an effort Mr Len Murray, the general secretary of the TUC, admit on the radio a few days ago it settlement of many of the 18 cent were too high, but general council is not inclined to do anything about it. I would be if Mr Callaghan still in office.

As always, it comes down to a political problem. To deter the unions are fighting an election that party lost eight months. Their effort is being put the TUC's Campaign for Economic and Social Advance, opposing government policy on labour law reform, arguing for a different economic policy as they were yesterday at the Neddly rather than urging discipline upon negotiators.

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ALL ABOARD

It can hardly be denied that the agreement announced last night at the Lancaster House conference is a triumph. The vindication of the strategy pursued by Lord Carrington in dealing with the Rhodesia problem since he took office. Unlike his predecessor he has been able to get concessions from the Salisbury government by giving them something to hope for, and from the Patriotic Front by giving them something to fear. He was prepared to take the risk of involving Britain in a "second-class" settlement, i.e. one in which the Patriotic Front would not be a party, in order to give himself the leverage with which to bring about a "first-class" settlement, i.e. one involving a ceasefire and the cooperation of all parties. On several occasions in the past three months the Patriotic Front have seemed ready to call his bluff. But in the end they have not done so, presumably because they knew he was not bluffing.

Yet the agreement is certainly not a defeat or a humiliation for them. Their anxieties about the successive stages of Britain's proposals were at least in part justified, and the clarifications they have obtained are on the whole improvements. It must be assumed also that the time they have gained was time they needed, and that they have used it to prepare their somewhat disorganised forces for a new kind of political action. They

have played their hand with skill, maintaining doubt to the last about their intentions.

The detailed implementation of the ceasefire agreement still has to be worked out with the military commanders on both sides, but now that political agreement is there there seems no reason why this should take more than a few days. Very shortly, therefore, a British governor should be on his way out to Salisbury. The task he faces there is one of formidable difficulty, perhaps comparable only to that of Lord Mountbatten as Viceroy of India in the last days of the Raj, when he had to guide India to independence in the midst of heavy fighting between the communities. In one way at least, the present task will be even more formidable. Lord Mountbatten could rely on the unhesitating loyalty of a highly trained civil service. But the new governor of Zimbabwe Rhodesia will have to take over the administrative apparatus of a state which for fourteen years has been in rebellion against the Crown and inspired by hatred and contempt for the British government. The cooperation of this still essentially white-run state is indispensable, and will not be easy to obtain. The only hope of getting it lies in the active support of Mr Ian Smith. He has the opportunity to perform a last, redeeming service to his country if he will go all out to make the settlement work. This is certainly not the time to

indulge in any recrimination against him or gloating.

The governor's most important task will be to ensure the disengagement of the two sides on the ground—not along a definable front or in a particular theatre but almost throughout the country. The way has to be cleared for ZANU and ZAPU to campaign openly and peacefully—though it would be utopian to suppose that all intimidation on either side could be eliminated. It is unhappily true that the conference has done nothing to soften the bitter hostility between the rival African parties. There are bound to be local breaches of the ceasefire here and there, and a big part of the governor's task will be to contain these and prevent them from escalating, though he will have no real coercive force at his disposal. He may well be glad of the assistance of officers with experience of United Nations peacekeeping operations, in Lebanon or elsewhere.

To have any chance of success he will need the full cooperation of all parties to the agreement. Bishop Muzorewa is perhaps the one who has sacrificed most, and he will still have a very important contribution to make in calming his followers and keeping the peace. The front-line Presidents too, to whom much credit for the conference's success is due, will have to continue to exercise a moderating influence behind the scenes. But the governor himself will have to exhibit quite extraordinary personal qualities.

MR LYNCH STEPS DOWN

Mr Lynch's hurried resignation is ominous for Anglo-Irish relations. He was expected to go in the new year when Ireland's presidency of the EEC will be over, but pressure within the Fianna Fail party has forced his hand. Some of the sharpest criticism of the past few weeks has been levelled at his alleged want of republicanism: in particular that he is backward in pressing Irish unity as the only form of settlement of the Ulster question, and that he was too ready to oblige the British Government in the area of anti-terrorist cooperation after the Mountbatten murder.

Ever since the eruption of Northern Ireland in 1969 Mr Lynch, in power for six of the years, has held the belligerent tendency of his party in check. The studied ambiguities of the formulae he devised for that purpose may have infuriated unionists in Ulster and aroused suspicions in English minds, but there is no mistaking the effect of his moderation on policy. He goes with that aspect of his leadership under challenge by a section of his supporters.

Earlier his prestige, supremacy as a vote-winner, and tactical subtlety would have seen him through. But these assets have been melting. It has become increasingly obvious that he would not lead his party in the next general election, due in 1982 at latest, and since he had declared a belief that a new party leader should have two years in the job before having to face the electorate, his departure was not to

be long delayed. That diminished his authority. Then last month Fianna Fail suffered two humiliating by-election defeats in Cork, city and county. Mr Lynch's home ground. His personal popularity with the electorate could begin to be questioned.

This year Ireland's economic miracle, which had made it statistically at any rate the envy of the western world, suddenly looks much less convincing. The balance of payments deficit is reaching dangerous proportions, foreign reserves are running down, the public are feeling the effects of a fierce credit squeeze, and Irish trade unions' genius for striking in ways best calculated to injure and infuriate the public has been continuously on display. The Brussels-led inflation of farmers' incomes is subsidising after several halcyon years, and the Government's rather clumsy attempt to assuage resentment at farmers' near exemption from income tax has, of course, lost it the farmers without winning it any special favour with other tax payers.

On top of all that, Mr Lynch's personal mishandling of the situation created by the murder of Lord Mountbatten and his bungled disclosure of a limited overlying agreement with Britain along the border with Northern Ireland have betrayed a loss of touch on his part. All in all the Fianna Fail government, now standing midway in its term, needs a decision and a new impetus. It is that, more than any particular line of criticism, which has constrained Mr Lynch

to go at a time which could hardly be of his own choosing.

Jockeying for the succession has already started. When Sean Lemass gave up the leadership of Fianna Fail in 1966 the Young Turks of the party, Mr Charles Haughey and Mr George Colley, fought each other to a standstill and the prize was taken by a genial and diffident barrister, Mr Jack Lynch. The same two now Older Turks are again in the ring; and the choice between them is sharper now by reason of the light shed on Mr Haughey's sympathies by the events of 1970. Mr Haughey, then minister for finance, was dismissed by Mr Lynch, accused of conspiring with others to import illegally arms and ammunition destined for Northern Ireland, stood trial, advanced the defence that the gun-running was a legitimate army intelligence operation, and was acquitted by a jury.

It should also be an incentive to make no difference to the course of events concerning Ulster whom Fianna Fail chooses to lead them. But not perhaps as much difference as the personal inclinations of the candidates might suggest. There are certain facts which no Irish government can gainsay and which limit the scope for policy reversal. One is that the Republic has neither the will nor the means to coerce the unionists of Ulster into Irish unity. Another is that the IRA poses at one remove as great a threat to constitutional authority in Dublin as it does directly to constitutional authority in Belfast.

A LOSS TO ARGENTINA

The decision of Mr Robert Cox, the editor of the *Buenos Aires Herald*, to leave Argentina for a year is a measure of the failure of the military regime to restore normalcy. After three and a half years of military rule violence and threats of violence are still part of Argentine life, both on the part of the government's supporters and its opponents. In Mr Cox's case the last straw was a death threat contained in a letter addressed to his ten-year-old son and purporting to come from the Montoneros terrorist group.

It is possible that it did come from them, though in Argentina today nothing of this sort can be taken at face value. What is certain is that Mr Cox has often been under pressure from the authorities over his determination to print the news and advocate justice and decency in

public life; and that of the numerous threats he has received during his ten years as editor of the *Herald*, many have come from rightist groups more or less closely linked to the present regime.

The *Herald* is a small paper, which caters primarily for the British and Anglo-Argentine community in Buenos Aires. But under Mr Cox's editorship it has made a name for itself for the courage with which it has reported the murders, kidnappings and arbitrary arrests of recent years, many of them carried out as government policy, and for constantly urging a return to a state of law. Its starting point has always been that the government contained decent men, both civilian and military, who genuinely believed in the principles of democracy and law, and who needed backing in the

power struggles within the armed forces.

As the years have gone by, and there has been so little improvement, that has become harder to believe. But the continued existence of the *Herald*, and the presence there of Mr Cox has been a sign that there was hope; and this was recognized by influential members of the government, who did not want him to go. The fact that he is now leaving is a blow to them. It should also be an incentive to them to act on the principles they profess, and to redouble the efforts they claim to be making to free Argentina of the international disgrace which now envelops it as a result of the excesses of recent years. By pointing out the excesses when other papers did not dare to, and by keeping up the pressure for reform, Mr Cox has deserved well of Argentina.

Prayer Book language

From Canon George Ayton. Sir, Given mutual respect on both sides, there is no reason why traditional forms of words and music cannot continue alongside more modern usages. In this parish we use medieval as well as modern music in our worship, and the Parochial Church Council have commented that if I wish to use the 1662 Prayer Book they will not stand in my way, although they are quite happy with Series 3.

None of your correspondents, however, has yet referred to a factor in the most recent liturgical reform agreed by the General Synod, which is potentially the most damaging to the traditional understanding of the Church of England. I refer to the new Order for Holy Communion which will shortly replace Series 3, which received final approval at the recent Group of Sessions of the Synod.

In the past, from the Prayer Book of 1549 (arguably the best revision of all) through to Series 3, we have been able to enjoy common prayer acceptable to and used by members of all traditions of our comprehensive Church. As a Catholic within the Anglican

tradition, I was always able to use the 1662 form, albeit with certain slight additions, for the Holy Communion. My Evangelical brethren might have interpreted its rubrics slightly differently, but we enjoyed a basic form in common, and one of the great advantages of Series 3 in particular of all the revisions has been the manner in which it has minimized those differences and helped us to share each others' treasure and insights.

With the new Order for Holy Communion this has come to an end. Not only are there four Eucharistic Prayers to cater for differing tastes but also an à la carte menu of alternatives and permissible additions or omissions as a result of which four centuries of development towards a common prayer have in effect been abandoned. In Series 3, we have now become a congregation of sect, and that is a reversal which in the long term is more serious and damaging than whether or not we address God as "thou" or "you".

I have to admit that the vote in the General Synod in favour of the new Order was overwhelming, and certainly the Revision Committee had worked long and hard (and expensively) under their kindly and respected Chairman, the Bishop of Derby. But I do believe that both the Committee and the Synod were taken in by a confidence trick of the more extreme Anglo-Catholics in the Synod who argued persuasively that with the new Order there was at last one which even they could use. I was told by a number that the operative word was "could" not "would" and that they would in fact continue to use the Roman Missa Normativa. Certainly the rite used at a recent meeting of the Anglo-Catholic Church Union, described as "Series 3 Revised" went far beyond the permitted alternatives.

Of course, it is too late now for the Synod to reverse its decision where there even the will so to do. But it is important for those who are arguing the relative merits of traditional or modern language to realise that they are kidding when Rome has already burnt down. Tough in this case perhaps that is an unfortunate analogy!

Yours, GEORGE AUSTIN, The Vicarage, 19 High Road, Bushey Heath, Watford, Westofshire.

Possible split in Labour Party

From Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland (Labour). Sir, Eric Heffer's article, "Consensus: it's been tried before" (December 3), which discounts the possibility of a split in the Labour Party is astrich-like and disturbing. If he and his fellow members of the Labour Party's national executive committee do not even recognize the risk of a split it is scarcely surprising that they have done so little to avoid it.

Indeed, since the general election the party leader, the members of the NEC are increasingly distancing themselves from the broad mass of those who support the Labour Party.

The risk of a split in the Labour Party comes not from a feeble response by a small group of Labour MPs to Roy Jenkins's Dimbleby Lecture (November 23). Nor does it come from the threat of a nominal unity threatened by "Butskellism".

The threat is an actuality because the majority of the elected members of the NEC are apparently determined to jettison 80 years of party history, philosophy and achievements in favour of the millenarian views of a tiny minority of those who vote Labour.

If, in spite of the reasoning of those named by Eric Heffer who say "enough is enough", the majority of the parliamentary Labour Party and the appeals of moderate trade union leaders, the NEC persists, it will not be only a few prominent individuals like those named by Eric Heffer who will be the mass of those who know that they have not defected from the ideal and the policies of the Labour Party, which have made it the radical alternative to Conservatism.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MACLENNAN, House of Commons, December 3.

Patients and pickets

From the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. Sir, I beg to disagree with Mr Roland Mowle and in support Drs Jones and Altman (December 3).

If one has any criticism of the current situation at the Royal Cross Hospital, it is that it did not take place sooner. But previous picketing of this kind has been handled so pusillanimously by hospital administrators, that it is understandable if staff have been a little slow to take effective action.

We are beset with state welfare that we can fail to take effective action against trades union practices which are so often wholly inimical to our national interest, and by no means only in the Health Service.

In days gone by, an earlier generation of medical students would certainly have "disregarded" the pickets and dashed their nether regions with brightly coloured laboratory dyes.

Yours faithfully, REGINALD MURLEY, President, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, December 3.

Choosing light verse

From Mr Kingsley Amis. Sir, May I correct a detail or two in Michael Radcliffe's friendly reference (November 28) to my compilation, *The New Oxford Book of Light Verse*? It is by chance, not design, that the poems in that volume overlap so little with those in *The Oxford Book of American Light Verse*, edited by William D. Howells. The Oxford University Press explicitly refrained from all attempt to limit my selection except in point of length, even providing me with Mr Howells's contents pages in plenty of time to poach on his preserves if I had wished. But I didn't wish. It was my taste and nothing but my taste that led me to choose so few poems by Americans.

As for Anon, I said only that he was not my favourite poet, not that he was my least favourite poet. From *Extra Pound* downwards there are plenty of anonymous poets; with better claims to that had eminence. Yours faithfully, KINGSLEY AMIS, Gardiner House, Flack Walk, NW3, November 30.

Maintaining services

From Christopher J. Whelan. Sir, Your excellent "Whitehall brief" series by Peter Hennessy disclosed the increasing role played by the military as part of contingency planning for industrial disputes. It should be made clear however, that despite its implications, military intervention is not restricted to emergencies.

Troops are usually used under the Emergency Powers Act 1964. They may be used without consulting Parliament to deal with work of national importance. The Defence Council, which comprises government ministers, civil servants and

Answering Vatican charges

From Professor P. T. Geach, FBA

Sir, The indignation expressed in your columns (December 1) by the Professor Schillebeeckx is something I find hard to understand. It appears that a body of divines in Rome have been considering this author's works for three years under conditions of confidentiality, and that now, before publicly expressing a judgment on the works, they have invited the author to come in person and give an oral explanation of doubtful points. To my mind it would not necessarily be a violation of natural justice for them to have delivered a considered opinion without inviting the author's personal explanation: a book must speak for itself, since in general a reader has to take the text as it stands without consulting the author, and it may come in for just criticism if it is seriously misleading. In fact the author has been invited to explain himself; and that being so, talk about a violation of "fundamental human rights" is preposterous.

The signatories' claim for Professor Schillebeeckx a "freedom of interpretation" in respect of articles of Christian faith. Obviously, members of the Congregation for Doctrine will regard themselves as committed to preserving a deposit of faith; the signatories cannot consistently deny them the "freedom" to express a carefully considered view as to whether Professor Schillebeeckx has given "interpretations" that are consistent with that deposit.

Yours faithfully, PETER GEACH, Professor of Logic, The University of Leeds, Department of Philosophy, Leeds.

From Don Benet Jones

Sir, Theology is not religion. The former is a speculative science on a level with sociology and economics for exactitude. The latter is a way of life, a species of *askēsis*, guided by those entrusted with the deposit of faith.

The interests of the two will differ. The one proceeding by trial and error, the other concerned that the faithful should not be led astray. The one demanding freedom, the other conceding little freedom to error.

It is worth while realising that most heretics have been theologians. The safest rule of faith is the *sensus fidelium*, even that of the unlearned. In the great Arian heresy the theologian saved for Athanasius, were wrong and the common people were right.

Nowadays, when the opinions of theologians are disseminated far and

wide and not confined to academia, they should be more than careful not to infringe the right of the faithful to have reliable guidance and that for Roman Catholics at least, comes from the Pope and the Bishops acting together.

We may, on some occasions, take exception to the way in which this guidance is exercised, but there is no doubt which of the two, in our eyes, is more worthy of trust. Our Lord was at odds with the theologians of his day.

Yours faithfully, RENE INNES, Downside Abbey, Straton on the Fosse, Bath, December 3.

From Mr Gerald Bonner

Sir, On Saturday last, December 1, you published a letter from a number of university teachers of theology regarding the case of Professor Edward Schillebeeckx, with myself as one of the signatories. Without in any way wishing to impugn the motives of others, I have since come to see my action as an unwarranted intrusion in the internal affairs of a church with which I am not in communion, but from many of whose members I have over many years received much kindness and sympathy.

I am also afraid that the effect of this letter, however well intentioned, may be to hinder rather than help to bring about a happy issue of the case in question. I therefore wish to withdraw my support from this letter and to express my regret for having signed it in the first place.

Yours faithfully, GERALD BONNER, Department of Theology, University of Durham, Abbey House, Palace Green, Durham, December 4.

From the Reverend Professor A. T. Hanson

Sir, In your issue of December 1 you state that "all holders of academic chairs of theology" were invited to sign the protest about the treatment of Professor Schillebeeckx, which you published in the same issue. In fact no such invitation reached me.

May I make use of your columns to say that if I had been invited to sign the protest, I would certainly have done so. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY HANSON, Professor of Theology, The University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull, December 1.

Selling off a Saxon farm

From Mr D. F. Severs

Sir, Mr Thomas suggests (November 30) that readers should be heartened to know that the Ancient Township of Langham possesses a thriving medieval system of local government. The fact is that the township is a patchwork of land on each of the Saxon fields more or less evenly distributed on each field according to soil type. The great fear I had was to make a mistake which would have meant redoing the whole plan at the cost of many hours work.

From my experience I can assure anybody who has the slightest doubt, that Laxton is indeed a truly Saxon farm, and its loss would be irreparable. No modern landlord could possibly afford to retain it as it is, and, therefore, it is only under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture that it can possibly hope to survive as a unique monument and I would like to add my name to those who earnestly hope a more mature consideration will be given to this matter and a decision to sell reversed. After all, I feel I have a sort of vested interest in it!

Yours faithfully, C. J. K. FORDHAM, Chesham's Lodge, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, November 29.

Latin logic

From Mr Peter W. Gofton

Sir, If it is true that Venezuela has more oil than the Arabs, then maybe the Kensington estate agents had better start learning Spanish. Yours faithfully, PETER W. GOFTON, 34 Grove Road, Havant, Hampshire.

High sheriff's role

From Lord Martin Fitzalan Howard

Sir, At just over halfway through my year of office as a high sheriff, one might be thought to lack experience to comment on the role of the high sheriff at present and in the next decade, but it is because one is so absorbed in the job and trying to get it right that it is important to state one's ideas.

I have a fear that views expressed at the AGM of The Shrievalty Association and contained in letters to you, should start trying to find new roles when it is not needed. I am apprehensive that the ancient office of high sheriff should be reconstructed as a sort of all important, high and mighty liaison officer who should go around his county doing good works, visiting hospitals, prisons, etc. No one denies these are excellent things, but it is not our primary function.

No, our job is to continue to

holding differently by strips and, secondly, individual plans for each holding, agreed by strip. The finished article was exactly like a patchwork quilt as every tenant had strips of land on each of the Saxon fields more or less evenly distributed on each field according to soil type. The great fear I had was to make a mistake which would have meant redoing the whole plan at the cost of many hours work.

From my experience I can assure anybody who has the slightest doubt, that Laxton is indeed a truly Saxon farm, and its loss would be irreparable. No modern landlord could possibly afford to retain it as it is, and, therefore, it is only under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture that it can possibly hope to survive as a unique monument and I would like to add my name to those who earnestly hope a more mature consideration will be given to this matter and a decision to sell reversed. After all, I feel I have a sort of vested interest in it!

Yours faithfully, C. J. K. FORDHAM, Chesham's Lodge, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, November 29.

Churches and VAT

From Mr A. E. L. Parnis

Sir, In the absence of official figures we estimate the cost of VAT to the churches at between £7.5 million and £9 million a year, of which 70 per cent or say, £5.5 million is in respect of repairs. State aid is now running at the rate of about £2.2 million a year (less £300,000 returned in VAT), but, grateful as the churches are for this help, it is of course benefits only a few, it is those of outstanding historic or architectural importance, and must be regarded as preserving a part of the national heritage rather than helping the churches as such. Yours faithfully, A. E. L. PARNIS, Secretary, The Churches' Main Committee, Fielden House, Little College Street, SW1, December 4.

Under the hedge

From Mr Nicholas Elliott

Sir, I read today of confidential government documents being left under a hedge in Suffolk; presumably by a mule. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS ELLIOTT, 5 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4, December 5.

Assessing the Shah's record

From Sir Denis Wright

Sir, Mr Katouzian, in vilifying the Americans as he does in his letter to you (December 3), appears to justify rather than condemn the behaviour of the Ayatollah Khomeini and his friends in their treatment of the American hostages and breach of all international convention. He also fails to give one word of credit to the Shah or the Americans—if their support was really as important as Mr Katouzian suggests—for the undeniable economic development and general improvement in living standards that followed the launching of the Shah's 1963 reform programme.

He might also have given the Shah credit for his leadership of the 1971 OPEC negotiations, in Tehran which set the ball rolling for successive increases in the price of oil—damaging indeed for us, but importing countries but the source of today's wealth and power among the oil producers. Let us not forget that the Shah's firm leadership had its good side, even for Iran. Yours truly, DENIS WRIGHT, 2000 Bottom, Flint Street, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, December 3.

From Lieutenant-General Sir John

Sir, In your front page summary of December 3, it was stated that the attack on the United States Embassy in Libya was a protest against the American refusal to extradite the Shah, believing this view to be entirely erroneous. Other Muslim countries do not necessarily approve of events in Iran.

The United States has come to be regarded as the enemy of Islam owing to its constant support of the present Israeli Government, which continues to seize Arab land in the occupied areas of Palestine and to evict the Palestinians from their homes and country. The Israelis also continue to bomb harmless villages in Lebanon, where thousands of Lebanese have been obliged to flee from their ruined homes.

Many Palestinian refugees have found asylum in other countries where they everywhere sir up hatred against the United States. Even President Carter has admitted the illegality of the actions of the present Israeli Government, yet he continues to supply Israel with money and with the latest lethal weapons. Yours faithfully, J. B. UBB, West Wood St Dunstan, Mayfield, Sussex, December 3.

Tory protectionists

From Mr Alan Clark, MP for Plymouth, Sutton (Conservative)

Sir, I was most interested to read Ronald Butt's theory (November 22) that economic policies tend to be restricted by the confines of the particular "time period" in which they are delivered. I am afraid this is nearer the truth than one would like but, as we have what is probably the most intelligent Treasury Bench since the War, let us hope that with the assistance of commentaries like himself, these thought processes may be liberated.

However, I was a little crestfallen to read his reference to "... a few Tory backbenchers who do not like to say it too loudly", as they have advocated the protectionist argument on the floor of the House of Commons in every economic debate at which I have been allowed to speak since 1977 as well in the leader pages of the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian* (although Sir, my request for the same facility in your own column has up till now been rejected). I also presented the case as guest speaker at the Bow Group Conference in Cambridge in April of this year.

Your readers may be interested to know that the old Treasury computer model from which most of its calculations and projections are drawn was constructed along such lines. I am sure that the House of Commons is full of questions that we should like to put to it. However, it is being modified and colleagues of the same mind as I am are hopeful that we will soon be in a position to repudiate many of the unthinking reflex actions which seem to be the principal substance of those who resist the protectionist argument. Yours sincerely, ALAN CLARK, House of Commons.

Churches and VAT

From Mr A. E. L. Parnis

Sir, In the absence of official figures we estimate the cost of VAT to the churches at between £7.5 million and £9 million a year, of which 70 per cent or say, £5.5 million is in respect of repairs. State aid is now running at the rate of about £2.2 million a year (less £300,000 returned in VAT), but, grateful as the churches are for this help, it is of course benefits only a few, it is those of outstanding historic or architectural importance, and must be regarded as preserving a part of the national heritage rather than helping the churches as such. Yours faithfully, A. E. L. PARNIS, Secretary, The Churches' Main Committee, Fielden House, Little College Street, SW1, December 4.

Under the hedge

From Mr Nicholas Elliott

Sir, I read today of confidential government documents being left under a hedge in Suffolk; presumably by a mule. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS ELLIOTT, 5 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4, December 5.

Racing

Boxing

Racing

[illegible]

SPORT

Squash rackets

Briars and Robinson tread same path to national final

By Rex Bellamy

Squash Rackets Correspondent

The records will tell us that the first British national squash rackets championship for men, the first, anyway, in which professionals and amateurs competed together—was played at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, in 1903, and was won by Gavan Briars or Ian Robinson on December 6, 1979.

The records will overlook the coincidence that the men competing in this evening's final turned professional together, only 10 months before the championship, and have the same coach and the same manager.

As a schoolmaster and squash coach, Malcolm Willstrop was working at St. Peter's, York, when he first met Robinson, a local boy. Willstrop later moved to Gresham's, Norwich, and there met Briars, who was born near

Widnes, and brought up in Lagos. When Willstrop gave up teaching and became a squash coach at Abbeydale Park, Briars and Robinson decided to work together under his stimulating guidance. Robinson went to live in Sheffield, Briars continued from his Nottingham home. In training, practice, and competition their careers have become

closely linked. Last February, both became professionals under contract to Michael Palmer's Multisquash company at Hatfield.

Briars, who is six years younger than Robinson, and almost a foot taller, has a slight edge over him. But Robinson came from behind to beat the second seed, Philip Taylor. His present form and confidence are such that he must be feeling that no peak is beyond his reach. The Yorkshireman was naturally the crowd favourite.

Briars, though, has an extraordinary record when retrieving the ball. He has produced a "stunning" mixture of the long and short games. The contrast between Robinson's agility and Briars's reach will be an engaging feature of the final.

Matches between players who are each of them so well suited to be technically predictable. There should be compensation for Robinson's lack of both men's speed and power in going for their shots—not out of recklessness, but because they know that winning rallies is more profitable than keeping them going. Their touch on the backhand may be crucial. It was on this flank that, in the semi-final round, each made most of his short winners and most of his errors.

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Rugby League

Top six trophies get gilt-edged support

By Keith Macklin

The benefits and allied problems of sponsorship were much in the minds of members of the Rugby League Council at their meeting at St. James' Park, Newcastle, on Saturday. Following furious public reaction to the postponement of last Saturday's John Player final, the council named a new date, January 5, and were told that further important sponsorship is imminent.

The secretary general, David O'Leary, said that the council had been forced to postpone the championship and full details would be announced next week. This meant that all the major trophies of Rugby League—the county cups, the John Player, the BBC's floodlit competition, the Challenge Cup, the championship and premiership—were sponsored.

However, there have been some misgivings among clubs and supporters after last Saturday's postponement of the John Player final. The council voted heavily against a proposal that children and pensioners should be charged full admission price.

The match will be played at St. James' Park, the original choice of ground, and with the one appointed referee, Billy Thompson. The council voted heavily against a proposal that children and pensioners should be charged full admission price.

Wigan rugby league club's assistant coach, David Williams, resigned after two months' pressure of business.

Also, by a stroke of luck, Bradford Northern and Widnes are due to meet in a league fixture that day, so other opponents are not involved in fixture changes.

Mr. O'Leary said that the new date was undoubtedly the most satisfactory one and Swinton had assured the council that every precaution would be taken against the weather. He emphasized that, because the John Player had come into being directly as a result of sponsorship, the sponsors wished to be taken into account and the council clearly called for television coverage.

On the question of the new sponsorship agreements for championship and premiership, Mr. O'Leary said they were "substantial and would enable Rugby League to continue to give a healthy, live game" throughout the year. Professional sport needed infusions of money to survive and the new agreements would give much-needed security to the game.

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Time for the building societies to change their image?

The unprecedented increase in building society interest rates to record levels has once again focused public attention on this peculiarly British institution and its role as the principal source of finance for house purchase.

The main criticisms are directed against the enormous and apparently endless proliferation of society offices and agencies, expensively competitive advertising of services which seem to vary hardly at all from one society to the next; and the nature of the mortgage contract itself, where one party is free to vary the terms unilaterally ten times in four years while the other, the borrower, has no choice but to succumb to a form of guerrilla warfare against his growing finances.

The proliferation is undeniable. I had only to walk the length of my local "High Street" to count 17 building society signs. Six were branch offices and the rest estate agents and the like acting on behalf of various societies. Three societies had both forms of representation.

By many? The Building Societies Association says that growing competition

for deposits makes it essential for them to be readily available in the High Street. To be able to attract money.

While the competition between the societies and the banks and other lenders like National Savings is understandable, it is sometimes regrettable from the borrower's point of view, competition among societies themselves, in what began and is often still thought of as a "friendly" or "mutual" movement is clearly less easily forgiven.

The association replies to this with the analogy of competing greengrocers or soap manufacturers offering comparable products. How far such analogies can be taken, however, is open to argument.

The real difficulty of building societies in their modern and rather changed role is that the interests of borrowers and investors are now almost completely unrelated. Half of the money on deposit belongs to investors who already fully own their homes, and a further quarter to people who already have a mortgage and are thus past the stage of needing a down-payment. The societies will lend almost exclusively to finance house purchase or improvement, but only a small proportion

of the money they borrow from investors is related to that. The term "building society" is therefore something of a misnomer.

"We are really savings banks. It would be much easier if we were called savings and loan associations as in the United States", said a spokesman for the Building Societies Association.

"Would it help the British home-buyer if the societies went the way of continental building savings banks with their contractual relation between savers and loans and their relative immunity from the fluctuations of the general money market? The association does not think so.

"Unfortunately, the cost of all loans in Britain is now very high. That apart, you find that the interest rate on home loans in Britain is near the bottom of the table for generally available loans. But in many other countries home loans are among the most expensive or at least above average." "Cold comfort, perhaps, but the British home-buyer is still better cushioned than most."

Dan van der Vat

Mark, learn and digest with pleasure

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

So many cookery books are published now that the choice is bewildering. Which of this year's crop will become trusted friends in the kitchen? It is hard to tell when good photography flatters dull dishes into looking better than they turn out to taste, and quiet pages of print hide mangled prose. Nor is it easy to tell at a glance where crisp instructions gloss over tricky procedures, or painstaking explanation describes methods that are child's play.

Perhaps in the case of cookery books the reviews should be written long after publication, when friends have been chosen, flashy acquaintances are gathering dust on the bookshelves, and the rest have been carted off to Oxfam.

But as the inevitable feast is upon us, presents must be bought. So, at risk of speaking too soon, here is a selection of this year's books which I do not expect to donate to good causes.

The Country Kitchen by Jocasta Innes (Frances Lincoln, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £7.95).

"This book has been written for all those people who would like to have a go at drying mushrooms, making sausages, curing hams, smoking fish, brewing beer, pressing cheese... if they could only find clear, practical instructions and the relevant information on how long it takes and whether, finally, it is worth the trouble." So says the dust jacket blurb and so it is. *The Country Kitchen* is beautifully illustrated. Christine Hume's photographs make one long to own a country kitchen, and the drawings of Stewart Walton,

Tony Kerins and Liz Butler add both information and decoration to the text. Two recipes from the book are given below.

The Complete Guide to the Art of Modern Cooking by A. Escoffier, translated by H. L. Cracknell and R. J. Kaufmann (Heinemann, £10.50).

This is the first complete translation of the fourth and fullest edition of Escoffier's *Le Guide Culinaire* published in 1921. Still the chef's bible, the definitive work on haute cuisine, is not a book for absolute beginners and was never intended to be. But as a source of inspiration and information it is in a class of its own. The new edition (646 pages) is simply and clearly laid out and exhaustively indexed. Its 5,000 entries range from *sauce suprême* to the bookmaker's sandwich. Every cook should have one.

Dining with Marcel Proust: A practical guide to French cuisine of the belle époque, by Shirley King (Thames and Hudson, £10.50).

Clear recipes for bourgeois dishes — *croque monsieur* through *truffled partridge* to *barley wasser* — with superb illustrations, photographs and engravings, lavishly interspersed with quotes from Proust on food. As James Beard writes in the foreword: "*Dining with Marcel Proust* takes us back to traditions that sorely need revival. The connexion between Proust and food is a natural one. He is a man who dealt in sensations, exquisitely examined, including those of the palate. In a celebrated passage, his remembrance of things past is set in motion by the recollection of the taste of a little cake, a madeleine, dipped in lime-flower tea." Practical and readable.

The Herb and Spice Book by Sarah Garland (Frances Lincoln, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £9.95). This attractive book is a modern herbal with recipes, rather than a cookery book. It covers cosmetics, remedies, dyeing, growing, preserving, and much more, as well as food. For windowbox gardeners it is a glimpse of a rural idyll. Accultivators will be sending for seed catalogues.

Cooking On A Shoestring: A collection of delicious, nourishing and economical dishes for the discerning cook, by Gail Duff (Macmillan, £8.95).

Economy cooking has a bad image, says Gail Duff, who has set out to change it with a book of original and imaginative recipes. She does not bend the rules. Her ingredients really are the cheapest available — rabbit, chicken, sprats, coley, crabs and the like. Following *Fresh All Year* and *Gail Duff's Vegetarian Cookbook*, *Cooking On A Shoestring* makes especially good use of sprouted seeds and inexpensive fruits.

Cuisine Of The Sun by Roger Vergé (Macmillan, £8.95). Roger Vergé describes his style of cooking, *cuisine herissée* and it is his recipes, capturing the Mediterranean sun, and his style is full of charm.

Dumas On Food translated by Alan and Jane Davidson (Michael Joseph, £10). Selections from *Le Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine* by Alexandre Dumas (father, of *Three Musketeers* fame).

As the Davidsons say in their preface, "The book is the last work of one of the most astonishing and colourful authors of the nineteenth century. It is one to which he attached importance, and it is studied with passages which make amusing and instructive reading."

The Cook Is The Captain by Neil Hollander and Harold Mertes (John Murray, £5.95). Sea-going cooks will relish this irreverent guide to the art of nautical catering. Storm food, slushy whisked cream, what to do with the day's catch, and liferaft cooking are just some of the thoroughly practical chapters in this breezy collection.

Chinese Regional Cooking by Deh-Ta Hsiung (Macdonald, £6.95). Peking, Shanghai, Sichuan and Canton — four schools of Chinese cooking are explained in this generously illustrated book. I enjoyed reading it and look forward to cooking with it.

The Good Dog's Cookbook by Richard Graham (Joy Landman, £2.95). A slim, droll volume for dog lovers only, wittily illustrated by Don Grant.



From The Good Dog's Cookbook

Paperback originals
Leith's Cookery Course I by Prudence Leith and Caroline Waldergrave (Fontana, £2.25). The first of a trilogy, book 1 is on basic cookery and covers the ground. Journalist, author, restaurateur and founder of her own cookery school, Prudence Leith's latest book is sound and thorough. A plus for information, C-minus for charm.

The Bean Book by Rose Elliot (Fontana, £1.50). All you will ever need to know about cooking beans. Lots of interesting recipes, many well prepared. *Graham's Kitchen* by Sheila Hutchins (Mayflower, 95p), is a collection of recipes from the north-east of England. Sheila Hutchins asked readers of her cookery column in the *Daily Express* to send her their recipes, and this book of good, old-fashioned English dishes captures the flavours and traditions of the region. From Scotch haggis to Skipton pudding, the recipes range along on a tide of anecdote, history and reminiscence.

Now in paperback
English Bread and Yeast Cookery, by Elizabeth David (Penguin, £1.95). As always, Elizabeth David produces a wealth of fascinating fact to colour her subject. Her views on yeast in home baking (most recipes use too much) are revolutionary, and using her methods I have baked bread that is, if I say so myself, perfect.

Entertaining, by Robert Carrier (Arrow Books, £4.95). Menus and recipes for most kinds of entertaining, simply explained. In this book Robert Carrier's text is friendly and his approach pleasingly down-to-earth.

First Slice Your Cookbook, by Arabella Boxer (Fontana, £7.95). After eight years out of print there is now a second, revised edition of this contemporary classic. Spiral bound and boxed, it is cut in three across the pages for at-a-glance menu planning and easy use in the kitchen. It is a splendid dinner party book for people who want to serve good food without a flap. *First Slice Your Cookbook* helps the most inexperienced cook to feel competent and organized.

The following recipes are from *The Country Kitchen*, by Jocasta Innes, and both are handy standbys for Christmas entertaining. The nutcake can be served as cake or pudding. The result was rich without being sickly.

Nutcake
Serves 6 to 8
50g (2oz) dry white breadcrumbs
2 tablespoons rum
150g (5oz) caster sugar
5 eggs, separated
150g (5oz) chopped nuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, or a mixture
300ml (1 pint) whipping or thick cream

Make the breadcrumbs by whizzing up stale bread in a grinder. Put them in a low oven for a few minutes to dry out. To make the cake, first mix half the rum with the breadcrumbs. In a bowl over a pan of hot water whisk the sugar and egg yolks till thick, creamy and a trail of the mixture dropped on top holds its shape for a few seconds.

Put the cheese (remove hard rinds), butter, sherry and seasonings in a mortar, or blend in a mixer. When smooth pack down into little jars or pots, seal the top with melted clarified butter or lard and cover with waxed paper and string. Store in a cool place.

Next week: civilized cocktail party food.

Whisk the egg whites till stiff then, using a metal spoon, gently fold the egg whites, breadcrumbs and nuts into the slushy whisked cream mixture, trying not to crush the mixture as you blend.

When well blended turn gently into a greased, floured 20 cm (8 in) cake tin and bake in a moderately hot oven (190 deg C/375 deg F, gas mark 5) for between 45 minutes and an hour. Test with a skewer down the middle—if it comes out clean, the cake is done.

Cut in half and sandwich with slightly sweetened whipped cream flavoured with 1 tablespoon of rum and the same amount of chopped nuts.

As Jocasta Innes rightly says of potted cheese, it is "a delicious spread for crackers, sandwiches and savoury toasts (that nice Edwardian bachelor indulgence) which can be made from stale odds and ends of cheese. Use a pungent cheese for preference. It will keep for ages, sealed with clarified butter or lard."

Round the cheese (remove hard rinds), butter, sherry and seasonings in a mortar, or blend in a mixer. When smooth pack down into little jars or pots, seal the top with melted clarified butter or lard and cover with waxed paper and string. Store in a cool place.

Next week: civilized cocktail party food.

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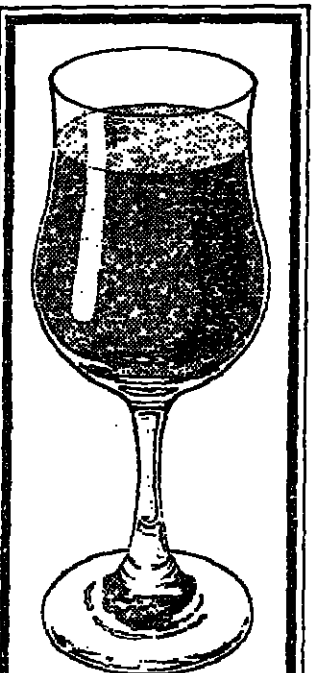
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See page 27



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Stock markets
FT Ind 418.8, down 4.7
FT Gls 64.28, down 0.24

Sterling
\$2.1785, down 1.35
Index 69.4, down 0.4

Dollar
Index 86.2, up 0.3

Gold
\$427 an ounce, down \$2

3-month money
Inter-bank 16 11/16 to 16 13/16
Euro \$14 1/16 to 14 3/16

IN BRIEF

70 blocks offered in latest N Sea licensing

About 70 blocks are to be offered in the seventh round of licensing for oil and gas exploration on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf, Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, told the House of Commons yesterday.

Oil companies will be able for the first time to apply for blocks of their own choice in the well explored area of the North Sea containing the big finds so far.

Mr Howell is to discuss with the industry which other blocks are to be on offer. He is considering including blocks north and west of Shetland, and in the recently designated area north of the 62nd parallel, both of which are in deep water, the Moray Firth, the southern North Sea, the South West approaches, the Irish Sea and central and inshore areas of the English Channel.

New chief at Lazard
Mr Ian Fraser (below) who is to take over as chairman of Lazard Brothers on January 1 on the retirement of Mr David Melnerzhagen.

Business Diary, page 23



Airfix reconsiders

Airfix Industries is to reconsider its decision to close the Meccano toy factory in Liverpool. The temporary reprieve for the factory and its 930 workers was announced after talks between Airfix management and union officials.

Breathing space, page 22

Fewer US visitors

United States visitors to Britain fell to 1.1 million in the first eight months of this year, a 14 per cent decrease on the same period a year earlier.

Microchip survey

A survey, conducted for the Department of Industry by Market and Opinion Research International on the potential impact of micro-processors, says that "neither the prospects nor the problems are likely to be as dramatic as people expect".

Stewards successful

Shop stewards have had marked success in negotiating for themselves facilities recommended in codes of practice from the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service and the TUC, according to a survey by the Labour Research Department.

Italy raises bank rate

Italy is raising its bank rate by three points to 15 per cent with effect from today.

Wall St up

The Dow Jones industrial average rose over three points to close at 828.41. Turnover rose to 30 million shares from less than 24 million on Tuesday.

Cash inflows produce £450m surplus on UK capital account

By Caroline Addison

For money inflows into Britain during the third quarter of this year more than offset the extra money which went overseas as a result of the summer relaxation of exchange controls.

Britain thus had a significant surplus of just over £450m on the capital account of the balance of payments between June and September.

Yesterday's payments figures also show that Britain's invisible trade was in surplus of about £190m during the third quarter.

Earlier estimates had put the invisibles in balance so the latest figures show a smaller current account payments deficit.

Invisible trade includes services such as tourism and some financial transactions, including the Government's contributions to the EEC.

The current account deficit for the three months is now put at £210m, rather than £31m. As the capital surplus exceeded this by £298m, there was a surplus for official financing.

Exchange controls were finally lifted only at the end of October. However there were significant relaxations in the rules in the Budget in June, followed by further changes in July.

These appear to have had an immediate impact on the financing of overseas investment and thus on the balance of payments.

British banks and companies which had borrowed overseas to finance foreign investment paid back some of this money in the third quarter, rather than borrowing more. This switch from borrowing to repaying overseas investment directly from Britain is thought to account for a turnaround of £1,100m in the capital account.

British banks paid back £200m in the three months. Usually they would have borrowed something of the order of £200m to pay for portfolio investment overseas. Companies in the United Kingdom paid

back £142m in the quarter, instead of taking out new borrowing of the same order.

However, these extra outflows of capital from Britain were smaller than the inflows sucked into London in the three months. Much of this money came from British Government stocks, after the two-point Budget rise in the Minimum Lending Rate in June.

There were £630m of private purchases of Government stock from overseas. In addition official holdings of Government debt rose by £212m.

Foreign central banks also deposited £208m in British banks and money markets between June and September.

It is against British policy to have an increase in the so-called "sterling balances", the official sterling which overseas authorities hold in their reserves. These holdings can be volatile, as they were in 1978, and if reduced suddenly can lead to a plunge in the pound.

The investment surpluses of the oil exporting countries went up sharply in the third quarter of this year after the jump in the oil price. This undoubtedly accounts for some of the rise in overseas deposits in London.

Overall the Government estimates that there was a net inflow of about £1,300m into sterling deposits, British Government stocks, and Treasury bills during the three months.

There was a rise in the money market, home by immigrants in Britain after the relaxation of controls on these in the Budget. This almost doubled, accounting for nearly all of the £70m increase in private sector transfers overseas.

Sterling dropped on the foreign exchange yesterday, partly in reaction to the dollar's continuing rise. Against a basket of currencies the pound dropped 0.4 points to close at 69.4 per cent of its end-1971 value.

The dollar continued to strengthen against most currencies in fairly quiet trading yesterday.

Financial Editor, page 23

Table, page 24

Lloyd's puts computer leasing loss at \$340m

By Our Insurance Correspondent

Estimates of the total losses which the Lloyd's insurance market faces on computer leasing indemnity insurance have risen to \$340m (about £150m).

This is more than \$100m above Lloyd's estimate made earlier this year, and represents by far the biggest loss sustained by the market in its 300-year history.

The latest loss forecast has been supplied by First National Bank of Boston, which is advising Lloyd's on its overall strategy in settling 1,000 claims which have flooded into the market.

Despite the latest estimate, there is still speculation among certain underwriters that the total figure could rise above \$500m. This follows news that Intel Corporation, the troubled American leasing group, is itself expected to file claims amounting to more than \$200m.

Claims cover arrangements made by leasing groups in recent years to insure against ending of leases by customers before contract dates.

The computer leasing saga has already caused much embarrassment to Lloyd's and put heavy pressure on a number of leading syndicates.

A Lloyd's spokesman said yesterday that the position had deteriorated since it last gave a forecast of the likely overall loss last January, partly because of a decline in the estimate of future re-leasing values of equipment involved.

Most insurance risks written at Lloyd's run for one year and rates can be adjusted annually. However, an essential part of computer leasing is indemnity insurance, which is individual risks ran for a period of up to seven years.

As a result, underwriters have found themselves faced with up to five years' acceptance to run off, and this is one of the reasons why losses have risen so much more than the market would normally expect on one class of business.

Highland Distilleries reject bid by Canadian drinks group

By Richard Allen

A surprise £80m takeover bid for Highland Distillers, the Famous Grouse whisky group, has been launched by the Canadian drinks giant Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts.

Setting the scene for a bitter takeover battle, Highland board said last night that the bid was totally unwelcome and would be strongly resisted.

Highland's shares, which stood at 99p before the offer, leapt to 140p—10p above the value of the offer.

At the same time the bid caused a flurry of activity in distillery shares on stock markets. Inver Gordon, Highland's rivals, jumped 19p to 206p, while Arthur Bell jumped 8p to 176p, and Tootin added 13p to 140p.

Hiram Walker, best known for its Canadian Club whisky and Courvoisier cognacs, has its own Scotch whisky operations with brands including Ballantine's Old Smuggler and Ambassador.

The group, which sells 74 per cent of its products in North America, made net profits last year of \$96.9m (about £44.5m) on sales of \$1,125m.

This compares with profits from Highland in its last year of £4.6m.

Mr W. S. McCann, chairman of Hiram Walker's Scotch division, said yesterday



Mr John Macphail, chairman of Highland Distilleries: bid totally unwelcome.

that his group had decided to go ahead with an offer despite a rebuff from the Highland board when it approached the group secretly at the end of last month.

Highland owns five malt distilleries in Scotland and an important part of its business is selling the output of these to the blending trade.

Hiram Walker is among Highland's customers but Mr McCann said that the main attraction was the Famous Grouse brand which has more

than 6 per cent of the United Kingdom whisky market. The Canadian group believes that it can assist development of the Famous Grouse brand worldwide.

The bid comes at a time when independent distillers are facing particularly difficult financing problems as a result of higher borrowing costs.

Malt whisky takes five years to mature and stock financing can be particularly onerous.

A special complication facing Hiram Walker concerns Highland's close links with a private company, Robertson and Baxter, its joint partner in the Famous Grouse operation.

Highland has a 55 per cent stake in Robertson, which is 52 per cent owned by Edington Holdings, whose chairman, Miss Ethel Robertson, is on the Highland board.

However, Mr J. A. R. MacPhail, chairman of Highland, said last night that under existing arrangements Highland would have to give up its stake in Robertson if a bid went through.

"The Robertson group is not for sale at any price", he added.

Financial Editor, page 23

£60m cash call from Pilkington

By Ronald Pullen

Pilkington Brothers upset the stock market yesterday by unexpectedly lowering half-yearly profits and asking shareholders to put up £60m.

The shares fell 30p to 218p having been as low as 211p.

The glass manufacturing company is making a one-for-four rights issue at 200p, a 19 per cent discount on the overnight price, and sweetening the pill a little with a one-third rise in dividends to 15p a share gross.

The £60m issue is one of the largest this year and comes after calls of £78m from Grand Metropolitan, £70m from Standard Chartered, Bank and £57m from Thomas Tilling.

The weakness of the equity

market has caused the number of rights issues to fall off recently and several companies are thought to have given up their place in the queue.

But J. Henry Schroder Wages, the merchant bank underwriting the issue, claimed it had little difficulty in arranging the sub-underwriting.

Explaining the reasons for the issue, Pilkington said that it had spent heavily over the last three years investing in this period had run at 190m, mainly in float and safety glass plants around the world.

glass fibre plants in the United Kingdom and the acquisition of Solar Holdings, an ophthalmic lens manufacturer.

The group forecast it would spend £250m over the next three years and said that it was desirable to increase the capital base to "in a position

to take advantage of further opportunities to develop its worldwide business".

This figure excludes the £120m Pilkington plans to spend on the acquisition of BSN-Cervels Danone announced in September, which will make the group the largest flat glass maker in the world and provide a firmer profits base when its substantial licensing income runs out towards the end of the 1980s.

Negotiations for this deal are continuing with BSN and still have to run the gamut of the cartel authorities in Europe.

Half-yearly figures to the end of September showing a fall in pre-tax profits from £43.4m to £38.8m were well below stock market expectations, which were pitched in the £44m-£49m range.

Financial Editor, page 23

Chancellor takes softer line on money control at NEDC meeting

By Patricia Tisdall

A threatened breakdown in government and trade union relationships was averted at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

The trade union delegation, led by Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, vented their anger about the Government's handling of the National Enterprise Board during a "rough but not uncompromising" debate on the economy.

But a conciliatory approach taken by the meeting's chairman, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, to general economic policy prevented the breach from widening. Sir Geoffrey suggested he was prepared to compromise on the application of monetary control, which has been strongly criticized by trade unionists as being too rigid.

The Chancellor said yesterday that he was prepared to discuss new monetary controls should be applied. He also agreed that monetarism alone was not enough and that alternatives must be sought.

The Government generally supported industry's drive for increased productivity but there was no one factor which would achieve this, Sir Geoffrey said. "I cannot deny the laws of economic gravity and become an economic hang glider."

A major lesson of recent years has been the ineffectiveness of overall economic policies that have failed to pay sufficient regard to the problem of supply.

The meeting produced a wide measure of agreement on the gloom of the country's short and medium term prospects and also on the main objectives of an economic policy. It was the first opportunity for industrialists, government and trade unionists to discuss gen-



Mr David Barnett: comparing ability is also important.

eral economic topics since the election and the expectation is that it was sufficiently constructive to become the forerunner of others.

Wide differences in attitudes were aired frankly. Len Murray accused the Government of "competitive deflation" saying that the dismal economy was not only undesirable, but also unnecessary—even if the Confederation of British Industry thought it was inevitable.

On pay, Mr Murray said it was impossible for trade unionists to take a "one-eyed" approach to wage settlements. For the three sides were agreed that there was no room for an incomes policy or a pay "norm" even though it would be difficult to move to unfettered bargaining after more than a decade of incomes policies.

In his background paper to the meeting Sir Geoffrey said that there was now general agreement that an institutional-

ized "incomes policy" was not a realistic answer to inflation problems. It introduced distortions and hampered the flexible allocation of resources.

Both the CBI and the Government are pressing for pay settlements related to a company's ability to pay. But Mr David Barnett, the general secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, pointed out that comparability was also an important component in wage negotiations.

The trade unionists said they thought the CBI plea for trade union assistance in inflicting expectations was "mere exhortation".

The CBI urged the Government to influence pay expectations and to make the public more aware of limited economic choices by entering the public debate. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said he was taking an initiative on employee involvement and communication.

The Government has repeatedly stressed that the prime responsibility for improving industrial performance rests with management and employees at companies and plants.

But yesterday Sir Geoffrey said that he regarded the NEDC's tripartite Sector Working Parties as valuable in identifying particular industry needs.

Mr Len Murray said some trade unionists were disillusioned about the effectiveness of the Sector Working Parties, but he was assured that the drive to carry out present working party recommendations at company level would be stepped up.

Setting the tone for yesterday's meeting, during the economic debate in Parliament last week, Sir Geoffrey made it plain that he thought the discussion was important and that he hoped to be able to build on it.

British Shipbuilders to shed 1,400 workers

By Our Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders yesterday announced that 1,400 ship repair workers in the state sector are to lose their jobs with the adoption of a recovery strategy for the industry.

Harden hit areas will be Tyne-side and the River Thames. Ship repairing by the corporation on the Thames will effectively cease when redundancies affecting 450 workers are implemented.

The corporation considered a plan to concentrate on repair at Tyneside, but this was not considered viable. The losses on the operation on the Thames have continued to be a drain on corporation finances, despite efforts to reduce the labour force and push up productivity.

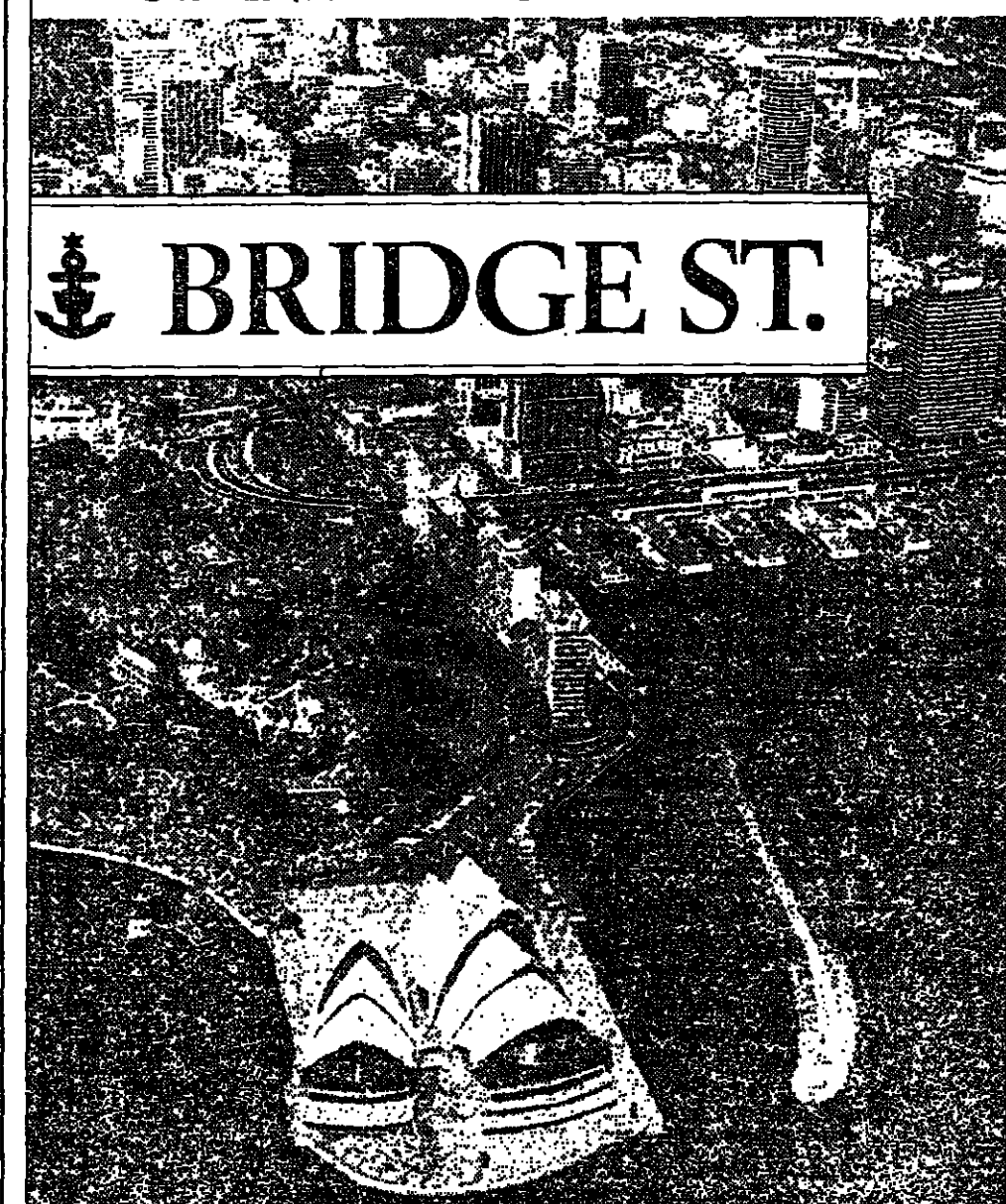
At the Tyne ship repair group, about 520 workers will lose their jobs, while Vesper shipbuilders at Southampton will lose nearly 400 workers.

The cutbacks form part of a programme designed to put repairing on to a commercial footing. The labour force is being reduced to just over 5,200.

Mr Eric Mackie, the corporation's managing director for ship repair, said: "It is a strategy for recovery, bringing us out of the present recession and into a better future."

British Shipbuilders began a review of ship repair earlier this year and has examined a variety of methods of improving the financial and competitive position of the repair companies.

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Falls
Bambers Stores 12p to 79p
Camrex Hldgs 3p to 42p
Comm Union 5p to 125p
CEC 9p to 87p
Imp Chem Ind 6p to 356p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	2.45	1.95
Canada \$	25.50	26.50
Denmark Kr	65.50	62.00
France F	2.60	2.55
Germany DM	12.17	11.57
Italy L	8.45	8.05
Japan Y	9.22	8.82
Netherlands Gld	3.76	3.76
Spain Ptas	36.00	36.00
Sweden Kr	11.25	10.65
Switzerland F	1850.00	1765.00
USA \$	567.00	542.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	4.41	4.18

Metals Explor
Norton WB 3p to 43p
Moss Bros 20p to 240p
Stoddart 5p to 118p
Tomatin 13p to 185p

Liberty Ord
Pilkington Shs 30p to 218p
Buxton Shs 10p to 155p
Sunderland Ws 3p to 34p
Whesoe 52p to 88p

Notes for small denomination bank notes only. All supplied yesterday by the Bank of England. Different rates apply to treasury bills and other financial instruments.



Iran's stake in Eurodif nuclear plant frozen

Iran's 10 per cent stake in the European Eurodif plant for producing enriched uranium has been frozen at the company's request, because of Iran's decision not to go ahead with its nuclear power programme, reliable sources said in Paris.

Difficulties between Iran and Eurodif arose in June, when Iran ceased paying its share of joint investment costs totalling some \$5,000m (about £2,283m), for construction and development of a uranium enrichment plant.

In addition, Iran has cancelled orders for nuclear plants placed in West Germany and France.

It was clear from this Iran would not fulfil its commitment to take 10 per cent of production from the Tricastin enrichment plant from 1981.

This development is expected to affect the profitability of the plant, as by 1982 it is scheduled to produce enough enriched uranium to supply about 100 power stations.

Banks pessimistic

'Belgium's Association of Banks' says that it sees no quick solution to "the fundamental problems" to the country's economy, and predicts that the faltering 1979 recovery would end next year.

Honn steel output down

West German crude steel production fell 4.6 per cent to 3.87 million metric tons in November from October, according to preliminary figures released by the Federal Statistics Office. Daily production dropped 1.2 per cent to 138,500 tonnes during the 28 working days in November from the total registered for the 29 working days in October.

Production steady

The seasonally adjusted West German industrial production index for October stood at 124 (1970 equals 100), unchanged from September but up 4.2 per cent from October 1978 when it was 119, the economics ministry reports.

Jet collaboration

Pratt and Whitney of the United States is to collaborate with Motoren und Turbinen-Union of West Germany, and SPA of Italy, on the development of a new advanced technology jet aircraft engine, the JT10D-232.

Final version of report raises double engineering controversy

Finniston panel calls for statutory licensing

Two controversial issues—state licensing of some professional engineers and the difficulties of introducing a three-tier status scheme—emerge in the final version of the Finniston report on the engineering profession and manufacturing industry.

Statutory licensing of all consultant engineers—10 per cent of the profession—as well as the few already licensed, such as those in dam building, is recommended in the 65,000-word report. This is a tougher line than in earlier drafts of the report. The report is being studied by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, before publication in January.

On the three-tier scheme for registered engineers, which would replace the present two-tier system of chartered engineers and technician engineers, there is a minority view in the report put forward by Lord Howie, one of Sir Monty Finniston's committee of 18.

Lord Howie said: "The proposals demand a substantial recasting of engineering education and it is hard to imagine an upheaval of this sort being readily brought about." Stiffening the qualifying requirements of the existing system would achieve near enough the same end, he claimed.

Under the Finniston proposals, a new statutory engineering authority would take over the registration of all engineers and other common qualification levels for a three-tier profession were established, it would set up accreditation criteria for universities and other educational establishments. The authority could help industry by ensuring the appropriate supply of qualified people to meet industry's needs.

The unequivocal recommendation on licensing to engineers, particularly in Canada and South Africa, but the Finniston report is sceptical of the effect on improved engineering practice. Significantly professional closed-shop had not been thought necessary in countries where engineering was established and valued, the report points out, although it admits engineering does not enjoy this status in Britain.

The committee thinks that registration of engineers could become, in effect, a licence to practise.

The Government and other public sector employers could take the lead in this regard, it only registered engineers, the report urges.

Companies contracting to the Government and its purchasing agencies should also be told to employ registered engineers wherever possible, the report adds. Because manufacturing industry's output is 40 per cent reliant on the public sector this could be a strong influence in building up a *de facto* licensing system, the report suggests.

But the report admits that although

consultants represents a shift of opinion by the Finniston committee which is against generalized statutory restriction to registered engineers. But Sir Keith is expected to be under pressure to extend licensing to all engineers involved with public sector spending when the report is published in January.

The protagonist of this is the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), one of the big three professional engineering bodies, which believes that unless forced to, employers will not insist that engineers are properly qualified for critical or highly responsible work.

The IEE has argued the benefits of licensing to engineers, particularly in Canada and South Africa, but the Finniston report is sceptical of the effect on improved engineering practice. Significantly professional closed-shop had not been thought necessary in countries where engineering was established and valued, the report points out, although it admits engineering does not enjoy this status in Britain.

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But the report admits that although

licensing entails that nobody would get a job without qualifying for and retaining a licence, the suggested register will have as much sanction as employers choose to give it.

The report is scathing about employers' attitudes to the registration system operated by the Engineers' Registration Board (ERB), which is part of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

Referring to employers' "negative attitudes" to the ERB system, the report points out that very few employers have tried to help in improving it or to establish workable alternatives. Employers have been indifferent to institutional bodies that set qualifications for their members, says the report.

The committee hopes that one way of making progress would be common qualification standards in contrast to the variety of standards still seen under the ERB system. The three levels under the new system, in descending order of professional merit, would be diploma, qualified or associate registered engineers.

CEI would see a large curtailment of its activities if the Finniston recommendations are implemented. It was an argument about CEI's role among constituent institutions that led to the setting up of the Finniston committee.

CEI could still be a forum for institutions, but the committee suggests that in their dealings with the new engineering authority, they should be seen as partners in smaller groupings based on shared interests. The report predicts consequent changes in the organization of the institutions—including mergers.

Derek Harris

US Steel action on dumping

The United States Steel Corporation will file anti-dumping suits against European producers, thought to include British Steel, from January 1, Mr David M. Roderick, the chairman, said in New York.

Mr Roderick said that his corporation "appears to be in a choice" but to file the actions against foreign producers. The United States government's trigger price mechanism had not addressed the problem of dumping by European producers.

He outlined a wide-ranging programme to improve the company's operations, following last week's announcements of plant closures and lay-offs.

Meccano factory wins breathing space

By David Felton

Airfix Industries is to reconsider its decision to close its Meccano factory in Liverpool with the loss of 900 jobs, the company's chairman, Mr Ralph Ehrmann, said yesterday.

His announcement came after a four-hour meeting in London between management and union leaders. More talks are planned for Friday after Airfix has taken advice on the employment laws.

The factory, which makes Meccano and Dinky Toys, was closed on Friday with workers being given only minutes notice.

Mrs Thatcher announced in the Commons on Tuesday that the Government was examining the circumstances surrounding

the closure to see if there had been a breach of the Employment Protection Act.

During yesterday's meeting at the company's West London headquarters, Mr Ian Holden, head of the National Union of Metalworkers, said that Airfix was in breach of the Act by not giving the statutory 90 days notice of redundancy.

Mr Ehrmann later said the "redundancy" was not a redundancy but a "restructuring" of the factory's future was centred on the question of a 90-day period of notice rather than on the actual decision to close it.

Mrs Patricia Turner, a national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which has 650 members at the plant, said after yesterday's meeting: "We believe that the company's actions have been completely disreputable."

Aircraft fuel demand may quadruple

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Consumption of fuel in the civil aviation industry is likely to be between two and four times above the present level by the end of the century, according to a new assessment by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations aviation body.

Even at that level, the requirements of the industry would represent only 5 to 10 per cent of projected total oil consumption.

The report suggests that, although oil prices may continue to rise, they are unlikely to be maintained much higher than the present level in real terms for a long period. In view of a possible transition to greater use of other fossil fuels, including synthetic liquids produced from coal, shale or tar sand.

Airlines will be able to save oil in the short term as they replace their older jets with new, mainly wide-bodied aircraft, which use about 25 per cent less fuel for their capacity. The report suggests that a new generation of fuel efficiency resulting from better operating procedures and air-space management will approach 20 per cent by 1990.

"Soaring oil prices have seriously affected the airline industry," says "On average, fuel now accounts world-wide for about one-fifth of total airline operating costs."

Assurance on future of docks

Mr James Fitzpatrick, managing director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, yesterday gave a categorical assurance that Birkenhead docks would remain open even if Shotton steelworks close.

The docks handle iron ore for Shotton, a trade worth £70,000 a year.

In an official statement designed to dispel the rumours which continue to circulate and cause uncertainty about their future, Mr Fitzpatrick, the company's chief executive, said: "There is no intention to close Birkenhead docks."

He said that although iron

ore for Shotton was an important trade for Birkenhead, the company was already seeking and securing new bulk trade to fill the gap long before the closure was announced.

"Iron ore is not the only activity in a docks system, which is larger than both Glasgow and Manchester docks. The Port of Liverpool's strength has always been its ability to adapt to changing circumstances," Mr Fitzpatrick added.

He gave as an example the new and flourishing car terminal at Bidston. Derek Harris writes: An estimated £120m was being spent on new manufacturing and com-

mercial projects in Hull, and unemployment has been reduced, Mr Ian Holden, Hull City Council's director of industrial development, said in London yesterday.

Unemployment had fallen by 10 per cent between 1978 and 1979 and in the middle of this year there were 1,000 jobs out of work compared with the same time in 1978, he added. This was despite a decline throughout this decade of much of the traditional base of Hull and its hinterland.

Mr Holden remained optimistic about a continuing strong trend in the construction of new industrial floor space.

United States industry braced for recession

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Dec 5

Increasing numbers of US Government officials, economists and businessmen now believe that a recession has started in the United States—a slump that will push down interest rates and strengthen share prices.

Their conviction was reinforced today by an announcement by General Motors that it will be indefinitely laying off 11,000 workers in its United States plants by 21.3 per cent last month and more than 100,000 car workers have already been made redundant because of declining demand.

Earlier this week Governor Henry Wallich of the Federal Reserve Board reflected a view now widespread in government circles when he said that "a slowdown seems to be ahead. It should bring relief from rising prices and from pressure on the dollar."

Economists at Citibank in New York note that new housing sales are softening and a further factor in slowing an economic slowdown is the relatively sluggish performance of retail sales.

Experts at Goldman, Sachs and Company see the slowing

economy leading to a gradual decline in interest rates and they predict the prime rate will average about 14 per cent in the first quarter of 1980 and 12 per cent in the second quarter.

They also point out that a factor that may influence such a rate decline is concern at the Fed that too much tightening of credit conditions will produce a political reaction that will make it all the harder to combat inflation.

It is swiftly becoming the conventional wisdom among the government and private economists that unemployment may well rise to 8 per cent by next summer.

A point of substantial dispute is whether the Fed will have the courage to maintain tight policies in the face of rising unemployment and whether fiscal prudence will prevail in Congress and at the White House as the elections approach.

The crisis in Iran is tending to influence financial markets now and overshadow fundamental economic developments, according to some bankers in New York.

They expect that the stock market will move ahead briskly once the Iranian crisis is over and as easier interest rates prevail.

Development Council is criticized for promotions

A job promotion organization came under heavy fire from a Government-appointed firm of consultants yesterday.

The North of England Development Council spent just over £487,000 in the last financial year trying to attract new industry to the North-East. Nearly two-fifths went on promotion and visits to Japan, America and Europe.

But the consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, said the results did not measure up to cash spent. "This is an important criticism because the substantial resources the council has donated to overseas promotion," they said.

The cost of each new job attributable to the council was estimated at about £5,000. But the council, in a detailed reply, put the cost at below £1,000 and possibly as low as £573 if different criteria were used.

The council said: "The consultants' formula lacks concrete criteria and ignores the facts. Fourteen projects which have

developed from inquiries received with the help of council initiatives will generate more than 450 jobs within the region, bringing the cost per job level below £1,000.

"The council is confident that the consultants' cornerstone argument on cost-effectiveness is based upon a formula which cannot withstand close scrutiny and crumbles when contested. This is highlighted in the current year by the case of Finsbury, which has, after many months of negotiation, now declared its intention to site a factory employing 1,000 people in the North-East."

"Taking this one project alone, the promotional cost per job for the current year would be £573. A project of this size can drive a coach and horses through statistical analysis and base-line judgments."

Mrs Maureen Taylor, council chairman, said yesterday: "We believe that the consultants' findings misjudge and mislead over the work and effectiveness of the council."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increasing costs faced by provident associations

From Mr G. David Lock

Sir, Your readers Mr Knott (November 27), Captain Goodwin and Mr Weston (December 4) have all referred to a problem which is going to become more severe in the years ahead.

The average age of the population is increasing fast. It is an undeniable fact that the incidence and cost of treating illness increases with age and thus puts the Provident Associations in a predicament. While we can accept that there is some justice in asking younger subscribers to pay to ease the burden on older subscribers, we have a clear duty to provide the choice of private medicine to as many people as possible.

Only by keeping subscriptions down to reasonable levels will younger people be able to afford them.

With the pressure on the family budgets of young people, there is little scope to ask them to pay more than is financially essential. Without a continuous inflow of young subscribers, our insurance plans would soon cease to be viable and the policy we follow is therefore in the interests of all subscribers.

At Private Patients Plan we have gone a long way towards solving this problem by introducing our Mastership concept. This ensures that the benefits available keep pace with the cost of living. Subscribers aged

65 and over continue to enjoy fully the advantages of this inflation-proofing concept and are not restricted to a fixed scale of benefits for evermore. Unlike the life insurance companies to which Mr Weston refers, the benefits of PPP can be drawn repeatedly throughout the insured's life as claims arise.

G. DAVID LOCK, Managing Director, Private Patients Plan, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LJ, December 5.

From Mr F. C. Lynnm
Sir, Mr R. D. Knott highlights the problem facing many pensioners who have been subscribers to private patients' schemes for many years.

Those of us fortunate enough to have reached "three score and 10" are given no consideration for long-term membership and minimum claims.

When we are most likely to need assistance the subscription becomes prohibitive. In my case it has increased eightfold since 1969.

Yours faithfully,
F. C. LYNNM,
Green Jacket,
Parkside Close,
East Finchley,
Leatherhead,
Surrey, KT24 5BX,
November 29.

Financing tax cuts

From Mrs D. E. Coombes-Herridge

Sir, It would seem that the Government is using the selling off of nationalized industries to help finance the unwise tax cuts of the early Budget. It must be remembered, however, that the sale of British Airways, BP, etc. are one-off recoupments, whereas the contributions to the Common Market budget were used (which of course was not a tax cut but a tax-payer's club) this contribution

being an on-going payment, the money saved annually would continue to be of benefit to Great Britain *ad infinitum*, and could lead to a future reduction in the income tax by at least 2 per cent, which would help the lower paid.

Yours sincerely,
DORIS E. COOMBES-HERRIDGE,
2 Gaen Street,
Barnby,
Gloucestershire, GL6 8JZ,
November 22.

Premium on beer prices

From Mr Alan T. Harrison

Sir, The Ind Coopers revival of old brewery names and "return to brewing traditional cask-conditioned local ales" would perhaps cause greater joy in real ale circles than your representation if there were some accompanying assurance that your correspondent (November 27) is mistaken in expecting the traditional beer to carry a price premium.

A traditional beer should not only be a superior product to a keg beer of similar original gravity; it should also be cheaper, since less capital expenditure and less labour costs are involved in its production. Cask-conditioned beers are not normally the subject of large-scale advertising campaigns, and should gain a further price advantage here.

In the main, they are not transported long distances. Areas such as Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, Cheshire, the City of Birmingham

and Nottingham have enjoyed lower beer prices than other areas, while having a number of independent brewers producing traditional beer.

One fears that some brewers are leaping on the real ale bandwagon, while trying to make "real ale" a premium product for the more expensive public houses, as if it were a carry-over from the days when the householder gains more if house prices advance at or below the general inflation rate.

Thirdly, the tax relief on mortgage interest may appear unjust, but while both major political parties encourage home ownership it is reasonable to expect this encouragement to take some tangible form.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN T. HARRISON,
16 Baslow Road,
Barnby, Walsall,
Staffordshire,
WS3 3SC,
November 27.

Sorrow over the incandescent lamp

From Mr J. A. Youngman

Sir, With regard to the letter from Professor Peter Kirby (November 29) I can see no cause to celebrate the centenary of the incandescent lamp.

The lamps devised by both Swan and Edison had an efficiency of only one half of 1 per cent. After a century of progress this has been raised to a staggering 2 per cent. Add to this the fact that each of 100 tons of coal burnt at a power station 70 tons is lost in wasted heat, some 5 to 10 per cent is lost in transmission, so that only 10 hundredweight is used to produce light and heat, a cause for sorrow, not celebration.

The only biography of Edison's contemporary, Nicola Tesla, asserts that Tesla invented, among hundreds of other things, an efficient electric lamp. This book also alleges

that all Tesla's writings were the placed under lock and key after his death.

"We need to reinvent the motor car," President Carter recently said. And, I would suggest, practically everything else. We need to reexamine the lost and ignored inventions among which I would include the car engine patented in the United States in 1922 which utilized most of the waste heat by performing alternate strokes of internal combustion and steam; the marvellously efficient aeroplanes of our own Sir Barnes Wallis; the new system of car ignition shown on a recent issue of *Tomorrow's World*, and, finally, the work of a scientist who spoke on television some 18 months ago of his efforts to cut the costs of solar cells.

The Sun must be providence's answer; a vast nuclear power plant at a safe distance from

the earth, its harmful radiations thoughtfully shielded by our atmosphere. Few people are aware that in just three days the sun pours energy on to the earth equal to the total known reserves of oil, coal and natural gas. Even in Lincolnshire the roof of my bungalow receives potential electrical energy worth £1,125 per annum.

The sincere hope behind this letter is to generate some righteous anger for our past laziness and to exhort the scientists of the "establishment" and of the multinational energy companies to produce some practical answers, now, preferably before this decade is out. It can be done.

J. A. YOUNGMAN,
"Lothlorien",
Wood Enderby,
Boston,
Lincolnshire.

Management Skills

From Mr Don Leslie

Sir, May I echo one of the points raised by Adrienne Gleeson in her article "A tougher road to the top for accountants" (December 3), that "accountants have very little experience indeed of the other sciences of management."

As a young Scottish CA I was required to take one of the ICAS "approved" undergraduate courses—a course which left me well versed in accountancy, taxation and company law, but not much else. Yet in my few months' exposure to auditing I have seen how important it is that an accountant has a grasp of such inter-personal skills as leadership, motivation, communication and negotiation.

But where is a junior auditor to learn such skills? Not from the Institute (too busy), not from the firms (too expensive) and certainly not from the universities. (No wish to conform even more to the demands of the profession). The onus is thus placed on the individual to gain exposure in the management sciences through outside experience, judicious choice of university course (if the curriculum allows) or involvement in one of the student management training schemes such as the admirable AIESEC programme.

As few can avail themselves of such opportunities, it is any surprise therefore that accountants find it very difficult either to comprehend the other sciences of management or to apply them?

DON LESLIE,
31 Bonaly Crescent,
Edinburgh EH13 6EN.

Building society economics

From Mr C. Mackenzie

Sir, I am at a loss to understand what economics I. F. Pearce (Letters, November 28) professes at Southampton.

The increase in building society's investment over the last decade has largely been at the expense of industrial equities; not only is such investment instantly realized, but it is also secure and gives a better rate of interest.

What would the effect of a 25 per cent minimum lending rate be? The amount house purchasers could borrow would fall. House prices would drop, and it would prove difficult to sell.

Combine this difficulty with the increased cost of sale and purchase (which in itself has grown over the last decade more than proportionately) and it is not difficult to imagine the effect on the "mobility of labour"—considered by most economic theorists as being of utmost relevance to the end of recession.

Over the past five years house prices have not increased by 25 per cent (if wish they had). If house prices were allowed, for once, to exceed building costs, then the building industry would receive a well-needed incentive to increase the available housing stock. Anyone studying economics might be able to forecast the effect of an increase in supply coinciding with a reduction in demand in what is a comparatively free market.

Yours faithfully,
C. MACKENZIE,
Bonischers,
School Hill,
Old Heathfield,
East Sussex,
November 29.

From Mr J. H. Duerr
Sir, Professor Pearce's letter to you (November 28) should not go unchallenged.

First, the building societies do not own the properties for which mortgages are obtained; the properties are used as security for loans made by the societies, which is a very different matter.

Secondly, householders do not make capital gains on their properties unless they sell up completely or move to a cheaper district. If, as is usually the case, a move is made to a more expensive property, then it can easily be shown that the householder gains more if house prices advance at or below the general inflation rate.

Thirdly, the tax relief on mortgage interest may appear unjust, but while both major political parties encourage home ownership it is reasonable to expect this encouragement to take some tangible form.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. DUERR,
Barkshire Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
November 29.



PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Interim Statement

ESTIMATED RESULTS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1979

The following are the estimated and unaudited results of the Phoenix group of companies for the nine months ended 30th September 1979. Interim figures cannot be taken as a reliable guide to results for the full year.

	9 months to 30.9.79	9 months to 30.9.78	Year 1978
	£m	£m	£m
Net premiums written:			
General (fire, accident, marine and aviation)	272.3	258.1	337.6
Investment income	33.5	28.9	39.5
Underwriting profit:			
General	-7.7	-2.0	-2.7
Long-term	1.6	1.4	2.2
	27.4	28.3	39.0
Less expenses not charged to other accounts	1.2	0.9	1.4
Profit before taxation	26.2	27.4	37.6
Less: Taxation	9.8	10.2	11.9
Minority interests	1.9	1.6	2.3
Net profit	14.5	15.6	22.9
Earnings per share, calculated on a weighted average basis	24.0p	25.8p	38.0p

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Pilkington takes the plunge

Pilkington has timed its £60m rights issue. Not only has it been launched at a time when the equity market has looked unfriendly enough to have persuaded others in the rights queue to drop out but it has come on the back of an unexpectedly sharp drop in half-yearly profits from £43.4m to £38.8m and indications that group profitability may continue to be under pressure.

The group has had its place in the rights queue for some months and with the recession expected to bite deeply into Pilkington next year it may well consider this to be as propitious a time as any to call on shareholders.

But with the shares dropping 30p to 2.8p in the news, it will not take much weakness in the equity market for the price to dip below the 200p at which the new shares are being issued, although Schroders were showing few signs of worrying yesterday about the underwriting.

All the same shareholders may well question why the company is issuing its equity around the time when the share price was above 400p earlier this year.

Pilkington is insisting that the funding is designed to cover both capital spending of £50m over the next three years—although with the heavy £190m investment programme over the last three years the general expectation was that it was over the hump—and the proposed purchase of BSN-Gervais Janone which will both turn it into the world's number one flat glass producer and give it a new profit base when the licensing income runs out towards the end of 1980.

BSN will own £120m and Pilkington is still running ahead of its plan to cover part of the price via the issue of 7 per cent of its equity probably towards the end of next year. This means that there will be a steady rise in shares for the next year or so. The trouble is that the group is not even as highly valued as it was when capital spending on new flat glass plants was at its height two years ago.

Meanwhile the half-year results were slow stockmarket expectations even after adding back the special commutative floor payment of £3.5m.

Full year profits look like reaching perhaps £66m against £90.3m with perhaps no other than maintained profits the year after. Despite the one third dividend rise the shares will be heavily of earnings dilution to cope with. Pilkington will take sometime to live down this rights issue.

Whisky
Highland prepares to fight

Hiram Walker's 130p a share bid for Highland Distilleries looks no more than a pining shot. Indeed the market is anticipating a battle royal having already lifted Highland's shares 10p above the offer price.

The fact that the Canadians have launched an assault on a group hitherto regarded as an inner bid-proof in some quarters, speaks volumes about the attractions of established Scotch distillers to the big drinks groups both at home and overseas.

With less than a quarter point of United Kingdom market share held by Hiram Walker's own leading Scotch brand, Ballantine, the success story behind Highland's famous Grouse, must obviously appear attractive to the Canadian group. Famous Grouse now has more than 6 per cent of the British market.

In return for this access to the British market, Hiram Walker can offer Highland a useful entry into overseas markets and perhaps more importantly an end to pressing balance sheet headaches.

Higher borrowing costs have put heavy pressure on all distillers involved in making stocks which in the case of malts, take at least five years to mature. Highland, with a high-flying product in famous Grouse is more pushed than most in this front having to lay down ever greater stocks to meet potential demand. The group added £8.6m by rights earlier this year and as been widely expected to come to shareholders for more funds next year.

The major hurdle a bidder will have to clear, however, concerns Highland's close relationship with Robertson & Baxter, in which Highland has a 35 per cent stake and which is joint partner in the Famous Grouse distillery. Highland and Robertson have rectors in common, while Edington Holdings which is Robertson's main stakeholder is 8 per cent of Highland.

Hiram Walker's gamble presumably is that can prise Highland away without upsetting

relationships with Robertson, which is unlikely to be available at any price. Next the Canadian group would have to contend with fiercely nationalistic Scottish investors, who hold around a third of the equity not to mention fierce hostility towards overseas groups from the Scottish unions.

Seagram's successful bid for Glenlivet last year will have encouraged Hiram Walker but an exit p/e of 17 (on reported earnings) is not particularly over-generous and the Canadian group could still be in difficulties even if it decides to up the price by another 20p.

Hanson Trust Still full of cash

Full-year results from Hanson Trust are better than expected after the 10 per cent increase to £12.5m at half time. For this shareholders can thank the fact that both the United States agribusiness businesses, Seacoast and Hygrade, have recovered from the difficult conditions which left profits in 1978 well down on the total for 1977, so that their contribution at the trading level this time is almost £4m better.

Meanwhile in the United Kingdom the bricks business, in particular, has gained a bigger and better share of a declining market, and the 1978-79 acquisitions have chipped in the best part of £2m, to leave United Kingdom industrial profits some £4.8m higher at the trading level. The net result, after interest and expenses of £2.7m (as against a credit of £900,000 last time) is an increase of almost 20 per cent at the pre-tax level to £31.2m, and ample cover for a dividend payout raised by just over 40 per cent, in line with the rights issue forecast.

All of which is very well: but what is Hanson going to make the running on this time? Since the first half was relatively flat, there must be some more recovery to show through in results from Seacoast and Hygrade; but the best of the bounce must come from inclusion of a full year's profits from Lindström, which chipped in a mere £300,000 this time. In spite of the failure of its attempt for Barber Oil, Hanson is still in the acquisition trail, but in the meantime there is £4m odd in the balance sheet, earning more than Hanson usually gets on its cash balances.

At 130p, up 4p yesterday, Hanson's shares are on a historic yield of 8 per cent, which appears to discount the risks more than adequately.

Bass Gaining markets

Bass produced some impressive interim figures in June, so the outcome for the year seems disappointing; profits are only 54 per cent higher at £111.6m whereas the market had expected around £120m. However, there are explanations. This time it has been a 52 rather than 53 week period; surpluses on asset disposals were bunched into the first half and, finally, the £3.4m cost of introducing a share ownership scheme under the 1978 Act (Bass is among the first to do this) has been taken against second half profits.

Thus the underlying trend is more satisfactory. Second-half profits stripping out these factors rose by some 9 per cent. Beyond that Bass has been gaining market share.

It had some 20 per cent of the beer market and has probably notched that up by between 1 and 1.5 of a point which given the volume involved is important, and reflects Bass pricing policy throughout the period (dictated to a large extent by the Price Commission findings) which meant that it avoided an across-the-board increase and will do so until January at least.

But there is another factor helping Bass in the market. It is strong in low carbohydrate beers and, even in a strong market like lager, this is the leading contender. And it is also strong at the other end of the market for more traditional beers, including mild ale.

These defensive factors will serve Bass well during 1980 when pressure on spending could well cause untoward distortions in the beer sales. So the shares at 201p, down 8p, yesterday selling at 6.8 times latest earnings and yielding 5.1 per cent on a dividend increased by nearly 30 per cent, can justify their premium rating.

Economic notebook

How much should the Government borrow?

At the heart of the dilemma facing the Government as it begins its preparations for the Budget next spring, is the problem of the size of the public sector borrowing requirement. Public spending is not being allowed to grow but there are limits to how much more can be cut. So the Government is faced with trying to reconcile two seemingly conflicting pledges, that it would cut the burden of taxation and that it would cut the level of Government borrowing.

Over the past three weeks we have asked three outside economists to set out their views. Frank Blackaby of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research put a Keynesian view; Tim Congdon, of stockbrokers Messel and Co, looked at the issue as a monetarist, drawing attention to the size of public borrowing in the past five years; Alan Budd of the London Business School said that while the borrowing would come down the greater the deficit in output, the Government ought to accept a higher level of public borrowing.

Effect on confidence

There is, we can be sure, no prospect of this Government (nor would there have been with Mr Healey as Chancellor) taking the line advocated by Frank Blackaby of allowing the Government's borrowing next year to be whatever it turns out to be.

The mere effect on confidence would be to depress prospects for a monetary policy to make it very difficult to hold to any money supply target. But quite apart from that, one lesson which we have learnt with increasing force in recent years is the level of public sector borrowing as a crucial importance in deciding how fast the money supply expands.

If governments do not have a borrowing requirement target they cannot realistically claim to have a money supply target; and the maintenance of such a target is one thing which we can expect the present Government to maintain whatever other U-turns are forced on it.

But it would be wrong to dismiss some of the very real difficulties to which Mr Blackaby draws attention. One is the sheer unpredictability of the PSBR itself.

There has been a great deal of talk on recent years about the unreliability of forecasts. Yet, ironically enough, much of the criticism of forecasting techniques has come from those who want to use a forecast of PSBR as their guide to what government policy should be.

The PSBR is the difference between two very large figures. Like all such differences, the error to which it is liable is the sum of the errors in the two figures, in either tax or spending. When added together, the errors can be well over a billion either way.

This ought to lead all of us to a rather more sceptical view of some of the minutiae which are argued in terms of Government policy. Sir Geoffrey Howe's decision at the time of the increase in minimum lending rate to raise an extra £700m in petroleum revenue this year and thus ring down the deficit about 1 per cent, to the £8,300m he promised at the time of the Budget, was a shrewd psychological move; but it really ought not to be necessary to announce policy changes almost as often as this.

The only justifiable part of the Government's otherwise foolish attempt to uniformity in the late published economic forecast was the vagueness about the likely size of the

borrowing requirement, which was described simply in terms of its likely share of national output.

Many things next year will be working in the Government's favour. It will, as Tim Congdon pointed out, get the benefit of full year's VAT at 15 per cent.

It will also receive much more revenue from North Sea oil. So why should not the real size of borrowing go down next year, rather than staying steady or going up?

What happens if recession pushes up the Government's deficit?

Both Mr Congdon and Dr Alan Budd of the IBS accepted that, at least in the short term, the response ought to be to let borrowing take the strain. Mr Congdon stressed the increase in government deficit through lower activity as about cancelling out the gains from VAT and other things. Dr Budd gave a range of effects on the economy just how severe the recession is, which in turn implied a range of acceptable borrowing levels.

Dr Budd makes the perfectly fair point that private sector borrowing tends to fall during a recession, so that the pressure to expand the money supply, is reduced from that quarter while Mr Congdon says that the increase through the recession is only "temporary".

Maybe it is, but just how temporary is temporary? After all, when the economy started to grow, the rate of unemployment in 1974 there were many who thought that the increase then was temporary.

Yet now the base of unemployment from which we start is about 500,000 higher than it was then. How do we know that unemployment levels will be coming down in 1981? And if they are not, or if they are falling only slowly, when does the temporary effect of rising unemployment on government borrowing give way to a permanent effect?

The problem we have here is the traditional one of a policy which is trying to go in one direction (getting borrowing down) while at the same time trying to reconcile itself with the fact that events next year are going in the opposite direction. I have doubts about whether financial markets have yet decided that recessionary-induced components of borrowing do not count.

There are two other questions which worry me about the belief that the trend of borrowing ought to be downward but that recessionary upsurges should be accommodated.

Middle way

One is why those in favour of this view do not go all the way and say that we should look at the Government's financial position with all the components which move cyclically stripped out; in other words, draw up a "high employment" budget.

There may be practical arguments for the middle way which is being espoused, but I cannot help feeling that logic points to one of the two extremes of either saying that we should look at the actual figure for the PSBR or we should strip out all cyclical influences. There is nothing magic about the present level of unemployment.

The second worry is why we should be prepared to let the PSBR rise in this way and no other. It is argued that automatic stabilizers are at work in the economy. But if an increase in the government deficit tends to increase output and activity, why should we restrict ourselves to automatic stabilizers. Why not use a few discretionary ones as well?

And if public borrowing does not increase activity then activity is no reason to let it rise; for the "stabilizers" have no effect.

David Blake

EUROPE'S TOP TWENTY INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Rank last year	Rank this year	Company	Headquarters	Main activity	Sales £000
1	1	British Petroleum	UK	Oil industry	17,559,800
2	2	Royal Dutch Petroleum	Netherlands	Oil industry	13,767,000
3	3	"Shell" Transport and Trading	UK	Oil industry	11,684,600
4	6	Veba AG	Germany	Holding co (electricity, chemicals, transport)	8,403,600
5	4	Philips' Lamp Holdings	Netherlands	Electrical products	8,124,000
6	8	Siemens AG	Germany	Electrical and general engineering, electronics	7,819,090
7	-	Fiat	Italy	Motor vehicles, ship engines, diesel trains and aeroplanes	7,772,200
8	10	Volkswagenwerk	Germany	Motor vehicle manufacturers	7,203,200
9	11	Compagnie Française des Pétroles	France	Holding co (oil and petroleum)	6,825,100
10	5	ENI	Italy	Holding co (petroleum, chemicals, engineering textiles)	6,577,800
11	7	Daimler-Benz AG	Germany	Motor vehicle and engine manufacturers	6,532,600
12	12	Hoechst AG	Germany	Chemicals, dyes, plastics	6,520,400
13	9	BAT Industries	UK	Tobacco, retaining paper, cosmetics	6,512,000
14	14	Rhône-Poulenc (Régie Nationale des Usines)	France	Automobile production	6,470,600
15	13	BSF AG	Germany	Chemical products	6,267,900
16	15	Bayer AG	Germany	Chemical products	6,165,300
17	16	Nestlé Alimentaire SA	Switzerland	Holding co (chocolate, milk and food products)	5,920,600
18	17	Unilever NV	Netherlands	Food products, detergents, animal feedstuffs	5,794,300
19	19	PSA Peugeot-Citroën	France	Automobiles and engines	5,624,700
20	-	Electricity Council and Boards	UK	Electricity suppliers	5,445,100

* Not listed last year.

Running a rule over the world's biggest businesses

Margaret Allen on the latest edition of The Times 1000 which lists the performance of companies in Britain and around the world

At a time when the security of oil supplies can no longer be guaranteed, it is salutary to be reminded of our dependence upon that highly political commodity.

The new edition of The Times 1000, published today, underlines the degree to which European industry is oil-related or oil-dependent. Britain, with its own supplies, is luckier than most, but even so will not be immune to any crisis.

The table above showing the largest industrial groupings in Europe, demonstrates the dominance of the oil and chemical industries (the latter using oil as a feedstock) in the European industrial scene.

Reinforcing the point, but at the same time giving a world view, the new Times 1000 shows that Exxon Corporation (which owns Esso in Britain) is the world's largest industrial grouping, followed closely by the former leader, General Motors, also of the United States. These two companies had more than £29,000 million of sales in 1978.

Another American company, Ford Motor, comes third—well behind the other two—with sales close to £20,000m. At this point, British Petroleum, the leading company in Britain and the biggest in Europe, follows with total sales of nearly £17,560m in the financial year to the end of last December.

Its sales were ahead of its nearest rival in Europe, Royal Dutch Petroleum by some 12 per cent and by 50 per cent on "Shell" Transport and Trading, the second-largest company in Britain.

Our long-term aim in The Times 1000 is to produce a table combining British companies with those in continental Europe. This is not yet possible, as accounting requirements differ from country to country and even definitions of, say, capital employed vary considerably.

Any effort, therefore, to carry comparisons of size beyond sales is of doubtful validity. The Times 1000 does not attempt it. The European table shows the top 20 industrial groupings in Europe by sales, a tabulation which can be taken to 1,500 companies.

Britain's top commercial and industrial companies are listed in the main table. It offers a wide range of figures, some for the previous as well as the latest full financial year, from sales, exports, profit before tax and capital employed to the number of employees and—where appropriate—the market capitalization of the companies' shares. There are subsidiary rankings for capital employed and profits. All eligible companies accounting to December 31 and March 31 last are included.

as it tends to suggest that all service industries are efficient, because of their fairly low need for capital assets in comparison with sales, and that heavy industries in contrast are all inefficient because they are capital intensive.

Nevertheless, experience within industries varies from company to company, some companies scoring surprisingly well in comparison with others in the same trade. (The reader can make these comparisons for himself.) The table below simply shows the 10 companies with the highest return on capital employed in the last year, and the 10 with the lowest. Coca Merchants, 165th in the main ranking, comes top with a return of £201.30 on every £100 invested in its business.

At the bottom are Green Shield Trading Stamp, whose troubles have been well chronicled in recent years, and Star Aluminium. There are a further 26 companies which have lost money compared with 25 a year ago and they have been isolated into a special table in the introduction.

For the second year running tables on the top 25 trade unions and employers organizations are included. These make interesting reading and show the tremendous wealth of the unions compared with employers.

Not only do they have a much higher personal membership (in almost all cases, apart from the National Farmers' Union, membership of employers' organizations is by companies rather than individuals), but subscription income and funds are much higher, too. No union in the top 25 has a net deficit, compared with seven employers' associations.

The biggest union by far, the Transport and General Workers', has over 2 million members and more than £36m in funds. In contrast the National Farmers' Union (ranking second in terms of subscription income) has 127,622 members and total funds of £6.114m.

Exel has once again provided us with the bulk of the figures, apart from those in the table of top advertisers, which once again have come from the research department of J. Walter Thompson.

The Times 1000 is available from bookshops or, in case of difficulty, from Times Book, 18 Old Street, London, W1, at £11.50 a copy, plus £1 postage for the first copy and 50p per copy for each additional copy.

RETURN ON CAPITAL EMPLOYED*

Rank by turnover	Company	Per cent
165	Cocoa Merchants	201.3
426	Lumsum Co	194.9
648	CBS United Kingdom	187.9
682	J. Soufflet (UK)	129.61
859	Horizon Travel	127.9
909	Leigh & Sullivan Group	122.6
923	Playboy Club of London	116.7
947	Mills & Allen International	112.5
537	Sasol & Sasol Company	107.3
994	Alpine Holdings	104.1

Rank by turnover	Company	Per cent
456	Green Shield Trading Stamp	0.6
705	Star Aluminium Co	0.9
886	National Carbonising Co	1.0
244	Chevron Oil (UK)	1.2
483	Elf Aquitaine UK (Holdings)	1.2
563	Roche Products	1.2
416	N. E. Sanger	1.4
178	Nestle Company	1.9
411	Andrew War & Co	1.9
60	Western United Inv Co	1.9

* At beginning of year.
* On capital employed at end of year.

Business Diary: Fraser's swings and roundabouts • Price sensitive

was a day of swings and roundabouts for Ian Fraser yesterday. The things were rather important than what was lost in the roundabouts.

The gain was his promotion with effect from January 1) the chairmanship of City Merchant Bankers Lazard Frères. The loss, or prospective loss, was his directorship of EMI, which yesterday came under the control of successful shareholders Thorne.

At Lazard, Fraser replaces Daniel Minnerath, who is retiring from the bank after 42 years.

Fraser's own career started in journalism as a correspondent in Reuters. In 1956 he moved to banking with S. G. Warburg and in 1969 became Director General of the Takeover Panel. In 1972 he joined Lazard as director and in 1973 moved to the deputy chairmanship. He holds a wide range of outside directorships, the most notable being at Rolls-Royce, where he has been chairman since the company's revival out of the ashes of the old Rolls-Royce group.

Security clearance, being a pretty sensitive issue at the moment, I was intrigued to have a word with Ralph Price yesterday. He is the chairman of two security-conscious companies, both of whom have bush-hush government contracts: Honeywell UK and M.E. Holdings.

ML is an engineering group that makes everything from bomb-release gear to pizza frames. More than half of its 1,172 employees are involved in defence contract work, amounting to about £12m worth a year.

Price told me: "I don't know how our people are cleared. They just are and they don't even know they have been cleared."

"I've been cleared myself, of course. I was cleared years ago at Honeywell and I'm in the clear at ML—they go into your antecedents very thoroughly—but you never actually know when you are cleared."

One problem of the clearance business is that this highly-specialized company can subcontract only to cleared companies, which exacerbate the already "desperate" shortage of specialized technological labour.

Price told me that the Slough-based ML has recently opened a design office in Bristol and will shortly open another in Guildford, taking work to reservoirs of skilled labour, since the firm can neither subcontract nor hire enough talented people to work at head office.

The most coveted prize in British engineering, the £25,000 MacRobert Award from the Council of Engineering Institutions, this year has gone to Sam Fedida, inventor of Prestel, Post Office Telecommunications, which launched Prestel this year as the first public "wordwide" service in the world, gets the MacRobert gold medal.

Fedida, now 61 and a veteran data consultant, dreamed up Prestel in the 1960s when working for the Post Office Research Establishment. Prestel combines a modified television set, a phone line and computer to provide subscribers with access to an information bank.

Today there are 1,750 Prestel sets linked to the system and about 250,000 "pages" of data available.

Not surprisingly, Fedida has a Prestel set installed at his home and is able to tune in to the competing Oracle and Cefax systems. He has his own computer, too.

He plans to spend his prize—which I hope is not taxable—on holidays and further research into simplifying computerized communications systems.

The award was presented yesterday by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The MacRobert Award, which recognizes technological innovation contributing to United Kingdom prestige and prosperity, was founded by Lady MacRobert, widow of Sir Alexander, founder of British India Corporation.

People like their Christmas corny. That is the word from the Christmas cracker trade. When College Christmas Cracker Company, of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, one of only four or five such firms in the country, tried "more sophisticated" joke and mottoes in its more expensive crackers, people did not seem to like them, director Edward Somers said. "We reverted to the more corny type of thing. But the whole thing is corny, isn't it?"

The corniness of it all means, however, that the trade is not driven crackers by the vagaries of boom and recession. The company, which has another factory at Grantham, makes a million crackers a week throughout the year and has already taken orders for Christmas next year. A tenth of output is exported.

One of the mainstays behind latest hardback publishing imprint Piatkus Books, apart from founder Judy Piatkus (picture above yesterday) is the nanny.

"You can't concentrate on your work if you're worrying about the children," says the 31-year-old Mrs Piatkus, who began as a secretary. "Fortunately, I have an extremely nice nanny."

The firm, based at her home in Essex, has her husband and two children—specializes in hardback versions of paperbacks. With ten titles out on a run of 2,000 each, Mrs Piatkus says that a small firm like hers can make money selling mainly to libraries.

Those sceptics, the financial experts at Money Which? have made a profit of 65 per cent in six weeks. In August they bought a limited edition of a boxed sterling silver ingot for a report on alternative investments. They paid £400 and were able to sell for £668 in October. But they didn't learn anything about limited editions. Silver prices shot up in September and the ingots were sold to people who wanted the metal.

Roos Davies

Established Spanish builder Costa del Sol (East) seeks important Estate Agency in England for exclusive representation.

Edificios ToTo S.L.
Torre del Mar (Malaga)
Spain.

PERSONAL CHOICE

Joseph McKenna as Hector McKenna in John Byrne's play *The Slab Boys* (BBC 1, 9.25)

It was, I believe, Russell Harty who was snapped at, glared at, put down and generally given a rough ride, the last time I saw John Osborne being interviewed on television. Instead of becoming more mellow with age, the playwright seems to have become even more prickly. He celebrates his 50th birthday within days and, to mark the occasion, today's edition of *Afternoon Play* (BBC 1, 2.00) is given over entirely to him. He will be interviewed, live, by Mavis Nicholson, a woman who, she is nobody's fool and nobody's exception and I am sure Mr. Osborne will latch on to these facts from the outset. Either way, it should prove a highly watchable encounter, especially as we will also see clips from several films based on Mr. Osborne's plays and listen to Alan Brinkley, another straight-talker, delivering a critical summary of Mr. Osborne, the semi-centenary.

Tonight's TV Eve (ITV, 8.30) should be worth half an hour of anyone's time. It contains coverage of the first interview with some of the 50 hostages held in the American embassy in Tehran. We do not actually see the programme's reporter Julian Marryon talking to them. He had to submit his list of questions to the armed students who are the captives, and the hostages' replies were then tape-recorded. At the same time, still pictures were taken of the 50 and these will be interspersed between the questions and answers. Much interest will, of course, attach to the hostages' replies to the question: are you agents of the CIA?

Six down, one more to go. *Diamonds in the Sky* (BBC 2, 9.30), the documentary about civil aviation, continues to fulfil the promise of the opening segments. Tonight's concentrates on the myriad activities of a British Airways team in the Middle East. One of the diplomatically sensitive matters it takes in is the sonic boom emitted by Concorde as it flew over the palace of the ruler of Abu Dhabi. The airliner had to be slightly re-routed. Oil not only talks: it shouts.

Statistically if nothing else, tonight's broadcast of *The Mikado* (Radio 4, 7.30) sounds impressive: 37-piece orchestra, 31 singers, 16-track stereophonic sound. It was recorded not at London's comparatively small Westminster Theatre where this production was originally staged nor so long ago, but at the Golders Green Hippodrome where I presume the studio's acoustics must be comfortably accommodated. The cast is the same, however, with Neil Jenkins as Nanki-Poo, Thomas Lawlor as Peep-Bah and Janis Kelly as Yum-Yum.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 *Febble Mill at One*: A notable occasion today: the guest is Peter Ustinov. Any further comment would be superfluous.
1.45 *The Pumps at One* with pictures—Julie Rolder's *Quiet Please* (r).
2.00 *Play School*: Michael Sheehy's story *Pineapple Story*.
4.20 *Deputy Dawg*: cartoon. Long Island Duckling (r).
4.25 *Jackson's*: Jester Maw with another reading from Gillian Avery's *The Elephant War*.
4.40 *Screen Test*: young children are asked movie questions. Also, we see Hollywood House, a film by young director Alison Barr.
5.05 *John Craven's Newsround*: news items for young viewers.
5.15 *Play School*: Michael Sheehy's story *Juggernaut* (r).
5.40 *News*: with Angela Ripston.
5.55 *Newsround*: what is happening in London and the regions.

BBC 2

11.00 am *Play School* same as BBC 1, 3.55. Close down at 12.45.
4.40 pm *Open University* 4.40 *Numbers and Reasoning*. 5.05 *The Pre-historic Channel*.
5.35 *Laurel and Hardy*: County Hospital. Stanley goes to visit an injured Oliver in hospital.
5.50 *Film*: *The Elephant* (BBC 1).
6.25 *Premiere*: *Desire* (Desperate). Directing debut by Robert Walker in a comedy by Ron Hutchinson. The film is about a man (Nigel) who daydreams about writing a great novel.
6.50 *Film*: *Rebel Without a Cause*.
7.10 *News*: with subtitles for the deaf of hearing.
7.20 *Newsweek*: this edition is devoted to education in Britain. It

asks: do our standards make the grade? In the studio: Mark Carver, Secretary of State for Education, and Stephen Jackson, Minister of Education. 7.55 *Afternoon Play*: *Only one* (BBC 1).
8.25 *Premiere*: *Desire* (Desperate). Directing debut by Robert Walker in a comedy by Ron Hutchinson. The film is about a man (Nigel) who daydreams about writing a great novel.
8.50 *Film*: *Rebel Without a Cause*.
9.15 *News*: with subtitles for the deaf of hearing.
9.20 *Newsweek*: this edition is devoted to education in Britain. It

THAMES

9.30 am *Once Upon a Time*: Peter Davison tells the story of *The Runaway Bus*.
9.45 *Ceremonies of the Tower of London* the duke says it all.
10.15 *Family*: *Amateur* series. Mainly dramatic in content.
11.05 *Survival Special*: *Forbidden Desert of the Danakil*. David Niven narrates this film about a savage Ethiopian tribesman.
11.55 *The Bubbles*: cartoon. Digging in Australia.
12.00 *Animal Kwickers*: for young children.
12.10 pm *Rainbow*: the theme today is shoulders.
12.30 *The Sullivan*: Australian family series.
1.00 *News*: with Peter Sissons. 1.20 *Thames News*.
1.30 *Archway Theatre*, part 2 of the *Limbo Connection*. Film writer James Bolan, in trouble with the police.
2.00 *After Noon Play*: interview with John Osborne who is 50 this week (see Personal Choice).
2.45 *London Belongs to Me*: the *Varman Collins* book, serialised. Today's portion to save a convicted murderer.
3.45 *Looks Familiar*: showbizness

quilt. Denis Norden is the MC. Guests are Roy Budd, Alfred Marks, Paddy O'Neil.
4.15 *Project UFO*: American drama about strange things in the sky.
5.15 *Mr and Mrs*: matrimonial quiz.
5.45 *News*. 6.00 *Thames News*.
6.25 *Help!* Post office carol singers who are helping the aged this Christmas.
6.35 *Crossroads*: more series. A family removal makes Glenda Brownlow unhappy.
6.50 *Charlie's Angels*: American series about women crime fighters. Farrah Fawcett, one of the original angels, returns as a guest.
7.00 *TV Eye*: 8.00 *Fallen Hero*: serial about a former Rugby League player. Tonight: Teddy Ross pockets Charlie's share of the night club earnings.
8.10 *News*.
8.30 *Thames Report*.
11.00 *The Streets of San Francisco*: American crime series. Tonight: is there a revenge killing in the offing?
11.20 *What the Papers Say*: review of the press this week is Frank Johnson of *Now* magazine.
11.30 *Am*: *Poetry*: readings by Vince Hill.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089KHz or 355m/1083KHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909KHz or 435m/683KHz. Radio 3 med wave 300m/1000KHz or 405m/740KHz. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200KHz and 92.5 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720KHz/147m. LBC 251m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 254m, 95.2 VHF. World Service: med wave 648KHz (463m). BBC Radio London: 206m, 94.9 VHF.

Regions

SCOTLAND: 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *Regional News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *Regional News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *Regional News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *Regional News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *Regional News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *Regional News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *Regional News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *Regional News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *Regional News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *Regional News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *Regional News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *Regional News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *Regional News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *Regional News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *Regional News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *Regional News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *Regional News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *Regional News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *Regional News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *Regional News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *Regional News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *Regional News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *Regional News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *Regional News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *Regional News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *Regional News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *Regional News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *Regional 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